

Argentine imports banned

All imports from Argentina into Britain were banned from midnight last night. The embargo was announced by Mrs Thatcher in the House of Commons. All import licences were revoked with immediate effect but applications for licences to import goods which were in transit before the ban came into effect will be given special consideration. Page 5

Naval forces rendezvous

Part of the British naval force bound for the Falklands were in rendezvous in the South Atlantic yesterday. At the same time HMS Invincible, one of the two carriers, began bringing its Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters to full operational capacity. Page 4

Air superiority may be crucial

Air superiority could be crucial in determining any confrontation between British and Argentine forces in the South Atlantic, but achieving it could present Royal Navy commanders with their greatest problems. Page 4

Expatriates fearful

British expatriates in Buenos Aires are afraid of what the future has in store for them. The easy atmosphere which they enjoyed has disappeared and they wonder whether their days in Argentina may shortly be over. Page 5

Oil a key factor

Oil is now emerging as a key factor in any prospective agreement which might be reached between Britain, Argentina and the United States for resolving the Falklands Islands crisis. Page 4

Oswaldo Ardiles, the Argentine who plays for Tottenham Hotspur, arriving at Buenos Aires airport to play for Argentina in the World Cup. He said he fully backed the Falklands invasion.

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Licensed to drill

Oil production licences covering some of the most fertile parts of Dorset, Somerset, and the Hampshire-Sussex border were issued by Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary for Energy, to a consortium of small companies. Page 13

Haig warning

A proposed freeze on new nuclear weapons would place Western civilization at risk and increase the likelihood of global destruction, Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said. Page 7

Strike pact blow

Hopes that the Government might negotiate a "no strike" pact with any of the powerful public sector unions were dashed when the Electrical Power Engineers' Association decided to oppose any such agreement. Page 2

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Government's new assessment

Galtieri 'did not know of Falklands invasion'

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government believes that the invasion of the Falkland Islands by Argentina may have been carried out by nationalist-minded admirals against the wishes of President Galtieri and without his foreknowledge.

This accounts, it was suggested yesterday, for what in retrospect is clearly seen as a defective assessment of intelligence available in London.

The Argentine fleet was reported on March 29 to have put to sea for joint manoeuvres with the Uruguayan Navy, which had frequently been held in the past. Before they sailed, intelligence sources in Buenos Aires made known their imminent departure, as reported in *The Times* yesterday. Their movements at sea were also noted and reported in the daily intelligence digests prepared for the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary.

But not till March 31—two days before the invasion did it become clear to the intelligence sources, it is now claimed, that the Argentine contingent had broken off the manoeuvres and was steaming at full speed for the Falkland Islands 400 miles away.

That evening, Mrs Thatcher called a crisis meeting in her room at the Commons. Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, underlined the reality of the crisis, which in Tel Aviv having left London the previous evening. The Prime Minister consulted for five hours, until nearly midnight, with Mr Humphrey Atkins, Lord Carrington's deputy, and with Mr Richard Luce, the Foreign Office Minister of State who was dealing with the Falklands. Also present were Sir Anthony Acland, who is to take over as Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office next week, Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Under-Secretary for Defence, and Admiral Sir Henry Leach, the Chief of Naval Staff.

For the first time it was clear to the ministers and their advisers that the invasion was imminent and that it was too late to take military action to forestall it. Instead moves were begun to gather diplomatic support and to notify our allies that there would be a military response. The exercise to secure support for Britain in the Security Council was put in hand and preparations were made for the task force to sail as soon possible.

Time for resolution says Mrs Thatcher

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher confirmed that last Wednesday evening—March 31—was the precise time at which she learnt that the Argentine invasion fleet was on its way. She was pressed by Mr Michael Foot, the leader of the opposition, to comment on the report in *The Times* yesterday from Simon Winchester in Buenos Aires that information about the attack was transmitted to London 10 days earlier. In reply Mrs Thatcher pointed out that the intelligence sources quoted in the report said that London was told of the existence of the force on March 29 "though not of its intent".

Mr Foot said the House had the right to judge if Mrs Thatcher confirmed that last Wednesday evening—March 31—was the precise time at which she learnt that the Argentine invasion fleet was on its way. She was pressed by Mr Michael Foot, the leader of the opposition, to comment on the report in *The Times* yesterday from Simon Winchester in Buenos Aires that information about the attack was transmitted to London 10 days earlier. In reply Mrs Thatcher pointed out that the intelligence sources quoted in the report said that London was told of the existence of the force on March 29 "though not of its intent".

He ignored an appeal from Miss Joan Lester, the committee chairman, to withdraw it in the interests of preserving the consensus that had been arrived at. The amendment was defeated and the committee then went on to pass by 11 votes to nil.

As it emerged that the Labour leadership's position in today's Commons debate will be that the force is not to be used, Mr Benn infuriated his colleagues on the party's international committee by opposing the sending of the naval task force to the South Atlantic and insisting on a vote on the issue, which he was defeated by only one vote.

Mr Benn incensed some at the meeting by moving an amendment proposing that Labour should oppose the sending of the force which, he said, could lead to bloodshed.

British intelligence was operating properly, and, if so, what action was taken, and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, recalled that Mr Luce had spoken of the Government receiving a warning of an attack "about a fortnight ago".

Mrs Thatcher replied that they knew there were problems on South Georgia, but the threat to Port Stanley and the Falkland Islands came to her on March 31. Mrs Thatcher also told the Commons that the Government was imposing an embargo on the import of all goods from the Argentine from midnight last night.

Mrs Thatcher declined a Labour backbencher's suggestion that she should resign with the words: "This is the time for resolution, not resignation". The uncertain mood of the Commons, four days after the angry debate yesterday, will be tested today in a further full day of debates in which Mr Francis Pym, 48 hours after his appointment as Foreign Secretary, will open for the Government. Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, will wind up.

Labour unity upset by Benn

Last night Mr Nott, who made a disastrous speech on Saturday, was well received at a crowded meeting of the Conservative backbench defence committee. He convinced his hearers that the naval force was ready for action and he indicated that his hopes of recovering the Falklands by diplomatic rather than military means were not high. The backbencher's mood was described as hawish, with nearly all the 20 or so MPs who spoke apparently anxious for action.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, is working on the assumption that the crisis may destroy the Government. In cases of an early general election, he is urging his party negotiators to complete quickly their negotiations with the Social Democrats on the sharing out of parliamentary seats.

Mr Wedgwood Benn yesterday upset a painstaking attempt to achieve a united Labour Party attitude to the invasion of the Falklands and in so doing exposed a serious split in the left over the ultimate use of force to recover the territories (Philip Webster writes).

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Pointing the way: Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign secretary, outside 10 Downing Street yesterday.

£2,100m off shares and pound tumbles

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The pound and shares both fell sharply yesterday as concern mounted about the impact of Britain's dispute with Argentina.

Sterling closed at its lowest level against the dollar since September 1977, down 1.85 cents at \$1.7495. Its effective rate against all currencies was down to 89.4 per cent of its 1975 level, a drop of 0.9 percentage points. The Bank of England spent an estimated \$100m (£57m) slowing down the slide.

Shares were marked down heavily early in a day that showed signs of a panic reaction. At one stage the FT-30 index had fallen 17.6 points to 454.2, but it later recovered to close 6.9 points down at 553.0. £2,100m was wiped off the value of shares by the close.

Gold also fell sharply and interest rates in the medium-term market edged up. There was also a sharp surge in the gold price, which closed \$11.75 up at \$345.00.

The Government has decided not to use Britain's reserves of foreign exchange to prop up the pound. Any intervention in the markets would lead to a stronger defence budget. There will also be renewed pressure to reverse recent cuts in defence spending, especially in the navy.

Industry will be little affected by the ban on imports from Argentina announced last night. But London's status as an international financial centre may be harmed by the freezing of Argentine assets.

Finance Bill, page 24

Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves stand at about \$19,000m. The Government thinks it would be a waste of that money to use it to prop up the pound. Any measures to defend sterling will take the form of higher interest rates in the United Kingdom. There are no plans to re-introduce exchange controls.

Although sterling's effective exchange rate has been stable at about 90 per cent of its 1975 level for many months, the Government has not been pursuing that level as a target. An exchange rate slightly above 85 per cent of its 1975 level is thought to pose few inflationary risks.

But a drop below this could push up raw material costs and lead to a new surge in prices. The Government was also keen not to be seen bringing the exchange rate down to a lower level for fear that it would cause a 1976-style run on the pound.

Because of this, the intention has been to lean against any fall through edging up interest rates but with the intention of slowing it rather than stopping it altogether.

A drop against the Deutschmark and the yen are thought to have particularly good implications for Britain's chances to compete in world markets. A small devaluation of sterling could lead to stronger British exports and lower imports thus helping industrial recovery.

Other implications of the crisis are all bad for the economy. In the short term, there will be some extra defence spending on items such as fuel and stores though the cost of this is not yet known.

No decision will be taken until later in the financial year on whether this justifies increasing the defence budget. There will also be renewed pressure to reverse recent cuts in defence spending, especially in the navy.

Industry will be little affected by the ban on imports from Argentina announced last night. But London's status as an international financial centre may be harmed by the freezing of Argentine assets.

Finance Bill, page 24

It's worse than I feared...

REAGAN TO BE GO-BETWEEN

Only \$67m worth of that is represented by Argentine imports and the Soviet Union is putting substantial pressure on the increase imports, particularly of heavy machine goods and power supply equipment.

The Argentine military preparations are concentrated at Comodoro Rivadavia, a port about 900 miles south of Buenos Aires which was used as the bridgehead. Newspapers in Buenos Aires are still adopting a jingoistic approach to the crisis. The official news agency, Telam, today released a story about the alleged discovery of drugs in the barracks used by the British Marines. The headline said: "Examples of decadence of the British Empire".

□ Moscow: Tass today blamed Britain for the dispute saying that it should have withdrawn from the Falklands (Reuter reports). The agency dropped its strict neutrality on the issue for the first time.

4 nuclear submarines 'out on patrol'

By Craig Seton and Henry Stanhope

As many as four British nuclear-powered submarines could be on the way to the Falkland Islands—or already there.

Four of the six hunter-killer boats normally based at Devonport are said to be "out on patrol", including HMS Superb which is assumed now to be in the Falkland Islands waters. The others are her 4,500-ton sister Swiftsure-class submarines Scorpene, Spartan and Splendid.

Meanwhile it was disclosed that 650 men of the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, currently the Army's spearhead unit, are to sail on the requisitioned cruise liner, Canberra.

Shore leave has been cancelled for sailors from six frigates which returned to Plymouth yesterday after the exercise Spring Train. It is expected that at least some HMS Badger, Enryalus, Aurora, Dido, Active and Aradane will be refuelled and resupplied, then turned round again and sent after the other ships of the Falkland Islands task force.

The 6,000-ton logistic landing ships Sir Galahad and Sir Cerat sailed from Plymouth carrying Royal Marines and supporting Army units from the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery with 105mm light guns. Trucks and helicopters could also be seen on deck as they left before a waving crowd of several hundred families.

At Portsmouth, the County Class destroyer Fire was said to be undergoing preparations to put to sea. But then everywhere was a scene of frantic endeavour as the Royal Navy fought to get the rest of its massive task force to sea in time.

The call to arms was not universally endorsed. Shipyard workers who were asked to sail yesterday on HMS Fearless with the Royal Marines to complete unfinished work, refused on the grounds no-one could tell them when they would return—and the work will now have to be finished by sailors.

Seafaring unions have also complained of lack of consultation over the requisitioning of ships for the task force and a meeting of the Maritime Board agreed that the men involved in crewing the ships should be given compensation totalling 150 per cent of their basic earnings.

News of their discontent coincided with a report that Britain's biggest and most powerful tug, the Salvageman of Hull, had been taken over by the Government to assist in the operation.

At Southampton Docks police imposed tight security as heavy military equipment including Scorpion light tanks were trundled into the port to await shipment.

The Scorpions were believed to belong to reconnaissance troops of the Blues and Royals, one of the two Household Cavalry regiments. They were being loaded on the 8,500-ton roll-on roll-off container ship Elk, which normally plies the North Sea route to Sweden from Middlesbrough, but which has now been requisitioned from P and O Lines.

Reporters described a scene of impressive activity continued on back page, col 1

Peer to takeover trade ministry

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night announced the appointment of Lord Cookfield, a former civil servant with the Board of Inland Revenue, and former chairman of the Price Commission, as Secretary of State for Trade.

Lord Cookfield, who replaces Mr John Biffen, the new Leader of the Commons, is promoted from his post as Minister of State at the Treasury.

The new Cabinet minister is 65 and his appointment, one of 11 announced from Downing Street last night, completes the Government changes caused by this week's Foreign Office resignations.

Two other changes of title were announced by the Prime Minister, Lady Young, the leader of the Lords, relinquishes the office of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and takes up the new title of Lord Privy Seal, an office freed on the resignation of Mr Humphrey Atkins from the Foreign Office.

Another Cabinet Minister, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Paymaster General also becomes Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He remains chairman of the Conservative Party, but MPs last night noted with interest that Mrs Thatcher had made her resignation on whether to put him in charge of Government Propaganda in place of Mr Pym.

The Prime Minister also announced four further changes at the Foreign Office. Lord Belstead has been promoted from Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office to become Minister of State at the Foreign Office. He will be joined by Mr Cranley Onslow, promoted from the backbenches, as the fourth minister of state in the department.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State under Lord Carrington, becomes the departmental number two, and Mr Neil Marten remains Minister of State with responsibility for overseas development and aid.

Lord Trefgarne, who was a Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office under Lord Carrington, is transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security, as a Parliamentary Under-Secretary, and is replaced by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Edinburgh, Pentlands, a Parliamentary Under-Secretary from the Scottish Office.

Another promotion has gone to Mr John Wakeham, Maldon, who switches from Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Industry to replace Lord Cookfield.

Lord Belstead is replaced by Lord Eton as Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Home Office.

Hug a tree to save a forest

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, April 6

In poignant defiance of contractors wrecking the forests of India, villagers have taken to hugging trees to save them from axes and chainsaws.

The Chipko movement—Chipko is the Hindi word for hug—is a symptom of growing concern about the widespread and indiscriminate destruction of forests and the resulting increase in flooding and landslides.

Vast tracts of the Himalayas and other regions have been laid waste by contractors who bribe officials to allow them to protect the forests. A government official says India is heading for an ecological disaster.

By wrapping their bodies around trees when cutters approach, villagers draw attention to what is widely seen as unscrupulous plundering.

In 30 years, according to official estimates, India has lost more than 17,000 square miles of forest, an area greater than Holland. The actual loss may be greater than this. In the Himalayan belt, from Kashmir to Assam, once covered with majestic forests, the slopes have been denuded below 5,000ft.

A recent estimate put India's forests at 135,000 square miles, about a tenth of the country. It makes a mockery of the 1952 forest policy which aimed to raise the forest cover from a fifth to a third of the land area.

Although most of the great forest areas have suffered the damage has been most serious in the north. The government of the state of Kashmir recently admitted that a number of famous forests had been obliterated. In the neighbouring mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, the forest cover, two fifths 20 years ago, has been halved. There is even worse damage in parts of Uttar Pradesh along the southern slopes of Nepal.

Without tree cover the topsoil is being washed away, leaving large stretches of land barren and increasing the sliding and flood potential of the great rivers which are the arteries of the northern plains.

Water supplies retained by the sponge effect of forests have dried up and there have been more avalanches. Scientists have protested that the ecological systems of forest areas are being ruined.

A rapidly growing population, human and animal, is making severe demands on forest areas. There is a shortage of fuel and of firewood, the most important cooking fuel. The need for timber is being met by contractors whose devastations have not been countered or made good by the government. The emphasis has been on making money out of trees, while replanting has been neglected.

Continued on back page, col 1

Save £200 on the world's first Timewriter



The Brother 8300 portable has made the days of the stopwatch speed-test obsolete. The world's first Timewriter, it can actually be programmed to calculate the operator's exact typing speed from the touch of the first key to the last; and on completion provide an instantly printed record to within one-hundredth of a second.

Despite its portable title, the 8300 also boasts other features only previously available on expensive office models.

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OXFORD STREET LONDON

NEWS IN SUMMARY 'Mountain' of railway arrears

If the Government approved electrification now the railways might not be able to implement it, Sir Peter Parker, British Rail chairman, said yesterday (Michael Bailey). That was because the railways were facing a mountain of arrears in necessary expenditure.

Addressing a rally of rail pensioners at Euston, Sir Peter declared that present railway policies could be regretted in the longer term. British Rail had hit all its targets in the past five years but "we can meet our financial targets and still fail the future".

This warning was echoed by Sir Henry Johnson, a former railway chairman, he said that with the most cost-effective railway in Europe Britain was failing to apply consistent policies and investment. The public were getting angry and railways were being blamed.

Appealing to the Government to help the railways after the recent "shattering setback", the chairman of the pensioners, Mr Frank Hick, a former railway operator, said: "We have watched with great sadness the current dispute and tearing apart of our railway inheritance."

MPs to protest against Reagan

A group of Labour MPs yesterday announced plans to do President Reagan "an enemy of peace" during his visit to Britain in June. They have formed a Reagan Reception Committee, already backed by Mr Wedgwood Benn and more than 30 other Labour MPs, to organize protests during his visit.

MPs are expected to join pickets against the President at Heathrow, Windsor Castle and the United States Embassy.

When he is received by both Houses of Parliament on June 3, the "reception committee" plans an alternative meeting in Parliament's grand committee room.

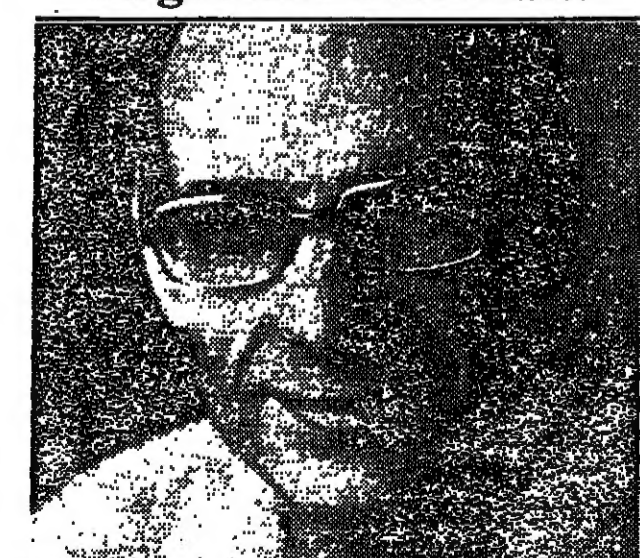
Mr Ernest Roberts, the committee chairman, said in London the group did not regard the American people as an enemy, but that Mr Reagan was "an enemy of peace". His meeting with his Falklands initiative was to avoid a war in his own backyard, Mr Roberts, MP for Hackney, North, and Stoke Newington, said.

Benefit cut for school-leavers

Up to 350,000 families will lose child benefit this summer under new regulations affecting school-leavers. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that child benefit will be withdrawn for any school-leaver getting either a place on a Youth Opportunities Programme or a full-time job during school holiday periods (Pat Healey writes).

In a written answer yesterday Mr Fowler said it was difficult to justify continuing payment of child benefit for young people who got full-time work during the holidays.

Hugh Jones is incurable.



He's planning his autobiography.

Hugh Jones was married and successful in his career as a sales representative when he contracted multiple sclerosis. The symptoms took some time to develop, but now he is one of our patients, confined to a wheelchair. His mind, though, is as keen and active as ever—he studies with the Open University, writes poetry and is planning an autobiography which he hopes will encourage other sufferers from multiple sclerosis.

We have over 270 incurable patients to care for. We cannot cure them. But we can help them. Skilled care can help them surmount their disabilities as much as possible, and can help them lead as full a life as possible. But we, too, need help. We are not part of the Health Service and we rely a lot on the generosity of the compassionate. Please help us with a donation, a deed of covenant or a bequest.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL & HOME FOR INCURABLES, (Putney and Brighton), Dept. T2, West Hill, Putney, London SW15 3SW. Patrons: HM The Queen and HM The Queen Mother. Director of Appeals and Publicity: Air Commodore D. F. Rixson, OBE, DFC, AFC.

Power engineers dash hopes for strike pact

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Prospects of the present Government negotiating a no-strike agreement with the bigger public sector groups when delegates of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association, whose 38,000 members control supplies to the National Grid, voted overwhelmingly "not to enter into any agreement with the employing boards that removes the right to strike."

The move came as the union's conference in York was told by Mr John Lyons, the general secretary, that industrial action was "very possibly unavoidable" if the Electricity Council failed to maintain pay differentials enjoyed by engineers and managers over the industry's 90,000 manual workers.

The power engineers' association, one of the most powerful and moderate of TUC-affiliated unions, is thought to have been almost the only one to take up informally the idea of a no-strike deal when it was floated by the Opposition during the 1978 to 1979 "winter of discontent."

Only a few hands were raised yesterday against to call to oppose such a pact, proposed by Mr Tony Aldous, of the union's headquarters branch. Mr Aldous said it would be wrong for the union "to sell the right to strike for 30 pieces of silver".

Backing the anti-pact motion, Mr Lyons said: "We have never set out to hold the country to ransom over greedy pay claims. However, when you see how the employers behave when you have the right to strike, how do you imagine they would carry on if you were without it?"

No legal arrangement

could embody a no-strike provision at the same time as protecting the earnings of the union's members, he said.

Mr Aldous told delegates that while the Conservatives had not since assuming office come up with any firm proposals for a no-strike pact he believed they might do so in the next year or so in an attempt to buy popularity before a general election.

Opposing the motion, Mr Peter Randall, from Reading, said that the strike weapon had come to be seen as a "sort of trade union virility symbol", and added: "Are we ever likely to use it, and if we do will it be effective?"

Mr Lyons's warning that industrial action was possible in the near future came during a debate about the Electricity Council's two-month delay in making a pay offer to engineers and managers who earn between £5,635 and £23,150 per year. The situation, he said, was "a bit of a mess" between board members and manual workers.

Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, who cancelled a visit to York because of yesterday's emergency Cabinet meeting, escaped what would almost certainly have been a rough ride from delegates angry about the dismissal of Mr Glyn England, chairman of the Central Electricity Generation Board, and about the Government's plan to cut part of the electricity supply industry.

Firm seeks to regain factory

By Clifford Webb

Massey Ferguson will apply to the High Court today for an order to regain possession of its Coventry tractor plant from striking pickets who have barricaded themselves inside and refused to admit management and staff for the past week.

Summons were served on shop stewards and members of the strike committee at the factory gates yesterday. A company representative also announced through a loud hailer that application was being made to a judge in chambers today under Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. That deals with the recovery of premises from squatters. None of the unions involved is likely to contest the company's action.

It will be the third time in seven years that the Canadian-owned company has had to go to court to recover Europe's biggest tractor plant from worker occupation. In 1975 the management were shut out for six weeks before the strikers were ejected.

Mine strike threat to save pit

By Paul Routledge

Industrial action that could spread throughout the mining industry is being planned over the fate of a single pit in the militant Kent coalfield.

Area leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers have drawn up plans for an immediate 24-hour strike if the National Coal Board does not approve a £3m development scheme to keep open Snowdown colliery.

Snowdown, which employs 850 men producing 300,000 tonnes a year of valuable coking coal, was one of 23 pits scheduled for closure under the coal board's accelerated shutdown programme that was abandoned a year ago in the face of a national strike threat.

Coal board mining engineers agreed then to investigate possible reserves below the existing seam, which is nearing exhaustion, and they have discovered a rich measure ranging from 5ft to 8ft in thickness, just 40yds farther down.

An application to go into those reserves will be considered on April 22, and the miners hope that the development scheme will be approved. If it is not, and the pit is put back on the closure list, Kent areas may clear a way for an undisputed deal to attend "action meetings" at which proposals to extend the stoppage will be discussed, and almost certainly approved.

Mr Jack Collins, secretary of the Kent area, made clear yesterday that an extended stoppage in the coalfield would be spread rapidly to other areas through flying pickets.

Kent miners will also seek the seeking of the union's national executive under its new president, Mr Arthur Scargill, who was elected on a "no pit closure for economic reasons" ticket. Miner's sponsored MPs would also be asked to give the miners a vote of confidence.

The miners of Kent are the first to attempt to halt the coal board's closure programme at local level.

Reporter at war HQ protest cleared

From Our Correspondent, Stockport

A young woman press reporter who watched as peace demonstrators were sprayed in paint on the wall of the bunker late night raid on a nuclear war bunker, was cleared of criminal involvement with them at Stockport Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Miss Rhys Vaughan, her solicitor, said it was an important case of press freedom. Her purpose was to report and observe; she was just doing her job, he said.

Miss Elizabeth McCallum, aged 24 of Egerton Road, Manchester, chief reporter of the *Withington Reporter* in Manchester, denied damaging an eight ft wire fence as a wartime headquarters belonging to Greater Manchester Council at Mill Lane, Cheshire, Stockport, last December. The damage was estimated at £188.

Mr Roger Newsome, for the prosecution, said that perimeter fencing was cut and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament symbol and the words: "They will be safe — you will be dead" were sprayed in paint on the wall of the bunker.

Four demonstrators had previously appeared, pleaded guilty and been fined £100 each at an earlier hearing.

Mr Newsome said Miss McCallum knew beforehand that damage was going to be done. She travelled to the scene of the crime with one of the previous defendants and was present while the damage was done. In her handbag, later found in a demonstrator's car, was a typewritten draft "news bulletin" of what was about to happen.

Mr Vaughan said: "The prosecution have tried, in my submission vainly to establish that this young woman was a participant in the damage. They seek to say the fact that she went there in the car with someone involved and that she had met them in a pub is evidence of intent and participation. And it is not evidence of intent."



Mr and Mrs Duncan: 'It's a dream coming true and worth every penny'

Third time lucky for test-tube mother

It could be third time lucky for the wife of a Coventry schoolmaster who is expecting test tube twins. For Mrs. Satinder Duncan, aged 24, whose husband Mr Carlton Duncan, is the deputy head of Sidney Stringer Community College in Coventry, was unsuccessful with two previous attempts at the Cambridge clinic of Mr Patrick Steptoe, pioneer of the test-tube baby technique.

Now a hospital scan has confirmed that Mrs Duncan, married for five years, will give birth to twins early in September. She said yesterday: "It's delightful news and a dream coming true. I will have three."

The couple, who live in Aldbury Rise, Coventry, recently adopted a boy aged three. Mr Duncan said: "The first two implants cost £1,600 each and the final one £1,800. But it is well worth every penny."

Later this month he takes over as headmaster of a 1,000 pupil school in Bradford.

The Steptoe clinic is maintaining its usual confidentiality by refusing to discuss whether there are any other test-tube twins on the way in Britain.

Only a small proportion of the attempts to implant a fertilized ovum in the uterus are successful. (Our Medical Correspondent writes). In order to increase the likelihood of success some gynaecologists are now using more than one ovum at a time. This will result in a higher than normal incidence of twins. More than one attempt can be made at implantation but each requires the patient to be admitted to hospital for ten days for laparoscopy and other checks. As the cost on each occasion in the private sector, is about £2,000 financial rather than medical considerations are likely to be the prohibitive factor.

Labour group praise for TUC Europe view

By George Clark

The prospects of Labour's policy on withdrawal from the European Community being influenced by the more realistic attitude now being adopted by the TUC general council are discussed in a pamphlet, *Labour Prejudices and Reality*, published yesterday by the Labour Movement for Europe.

Mr Denis Howell, MP for Birmingham, Small Heath, and Labour frontbench spokesman on the environment and sport, says in a preface that as the research departments of the party and of the TUC begin to assemble the facts, a disturbing difference of approach is found.

"Labour gives the impression of rushing in with every intention of justifying the decisions already taken," he writes. "Fortunately, the TUC seems to be asking all the right questions about options and alternatives, so essential if we are to state with clarity and conviction the means by which British jobs can be maintained and British prosperity assured after we have left the EEC."

The pamphlet argues that withdrawal could push unemployment up to five million, due to a loss of export trade and of investments, and disagrees with the claim by Labour opponents of the EEC that Labour must take Britain out of the Community if it is to pursue the alternative economic strategy.

"These arguments, based on ignorance, xenophobia and a blind refusal to accept facts," it states.

Mr Howell emphasizes that the Labour Movement for Europe is committed to comradeship and partnership with all democratic socialists in Europe. "It is now clear from the policies being pursued in France that our economic programme in no way conflicts with our membership of the EEC," he says.

Co-op faces boycott for hunting ban

By Hugh Clayton

The British Shopping Sports Council decided yesterday to boycott all shops, bank branches and other trade outlets in the Co-operative movement. Voting at the closed meeting in Westminster, London, was unanimous.

The boycott was designed as a gesture of support to hunters which face growing pressure from their opponents. Mr John Farr, Conservative MP for Harborough and chairman of the council, believes that all rural sports that involve killing are at risk.

The National Rifle Association was the only one of the 11 member organizations of the council not to attend yesterday's meeting. The others all supported Mr Farr's emergency motion calling for a ban.

The boycott was aimed at the Co-operative movement because of a ban on hunting which will be imposed in June on the 30,000 acres of land owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. A spokesman at the headquarters of the society in Manchester said that the boycott would be imposed because the Co-operative Bank and the 170 retail societies which owned all of the movement's shops were independent of the wholesale society. Some of the retail societies owned rural land which would not be affected by the hunting ban to be imposed by the wholesale society.

The wholesale society had received letters from supporters of the hunting ban who said that they would increase their custom at Co-operative shops, the spokesman said. The ban does not apply to shooting rights on Co-op farmland.

The decision to mount a boycott indicated a growing fear among supporters of rural sports that they have failed to meet the challenge posed by organizations like the League Against Cruel Sports. The league has campaigned for a ban on hunting on land owned by Berkshire County Council and failed narrowly last week to win a ban in the heartland of foxhunting in Leicestershire.

Challenge of SDP in local polls

By Richard Evans and David Walker

Two-thirds of the 2,300 SDP candidates fighting next month's local government elections have elected to contest an election before, it was disclosed yesterday.

With the Liberals providing a similar number of candidates, the two-party Alliance is fighting nearly all the town hall seats which will be decided by voters on May 6.

Mr John Cartwright, SDP MP for Greenwich, Woolwich, East, party spokesman on local government, said at the start of the party's first large-scale electoral campaign yesterday that many of the SDP candidates with little political experience "were diving in the deep end".

"These elections will be a major test for our organization because we cannot concentrate in the same way as we can for parliamentary by-elections. Many of our candidates have never fought anything before. Many of our agents have never been agents in an election, so everybody is learning."

"It is very much a dress rehearsal for us. It is experience which we very much need in terms of the coming general election. We regard it as a searching test of our organization," he said.

The SDP has held training sessions attended by about 1,000 candidates and agents. Mr Cartwright said he was disappointed that only 15 per cent of the SDP candidates were women, but was encouraged by the number of people from ethnic minorities contesting seats for the party.

Social Democrats have agreed a joint policy with their Liberal partners in many areas and their slogan for the campaign is, care about people, care about costs.

"We want to try to give local government back to the people; to make it more relevant, more caring and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can."

"That means challenging everything that has been done in local government. The fact that so many of our candidates are new to local government is a plus factor. They will go in questioning and challenging everything and trying to find better and cheaper ways of providing services," Mr Cartwright said.

The SDP wants to restore public confidence in local government, which it says, has been undermined by the attitudes and policy of central government as well as the actions of extreme Labour councils.

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Schools peace

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A teachers' dispute that had lasted for six weeks in the London borough of Barking, disrupting the education of thousands of children, was settled yesterday. Schools will be back to normal when the summer term begins on April 19 after an agreement between the National Union of Teachers and the Labour-controlled authority which had agreed to restore 100 of 152 teaching posts due to be axed.

'Disastrous' to reduce junior doctors' posts

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A reorganization of the health service so that all patients were looked after by consultants and there were fewer junior hospital doctors, would be as disastrous for the services as the last reorganization in 1974, the Royal College of Physicians said yesterday.

The number of hospital consultants should be increased but not at the expense of junior doctor posts, as the Government was planning, a report from the college said.

Government plans to cut junior hospital doctors, if implemented, would mean that family doctors, who have to work for a period in hospitals before becoming general practitioners, would not be properly trained in children's medicine because there would not be the training posts available.

With fewer junior staff, consultants would also have to endure indefinitely the restrictions on personal life that juniors accepted for a limited period in order to become fully trained and experienced.

The college was replying to the Short report, produced by the parliamentary services select committee, which recommended doubling the number of hospital consultants and an immediate freeze on some junior doctor posts, when vacated, the report said.

Sir Douglas Black, president of the Royal College, predicted yesterday that the Government, which has accepted the Short report, would implement only those parts which would save money. The result would be fewer junior doctors but no more consultants.

Senior house officer posts in hospitals had been frozen yet the recommendation of the college's Manpower Advisory Panel that the number of consultants should go up in 1982/83 by 118 has been cut to 10-15 posts by the health authorities and the Department of Health and Social Security.

Sir Douglas said that the college was critical of the "simplistic" view that junior posts could be frozen and converted into senior posts. There had to be sufficient juniors to filter into the senior posts, he said.

Democrats ballot on election method

By George Clark

Ballot papers will be circulated today to the 78,000 members of the Social Democratic Party to collect their views on the method of electing the party leader, on the representation of women on the council of the party, and for the ratification of the draft party constitution.

There is an extra ballot paper seeking approval for bringing forward the date of electing the leader from November to June, 1982.

Members are asked to choose between three methods of electing the leader: 1. If there is more than one nomination, the leader should be elected by postal ballot of all members and there should be a mandatory review of the system in three years; 2. The election should be by ballot of the SDP members of Parliament; 3. The leader should be elected in the case of any election before the next general election, by postal ballot of all members of the SDP, but after the general election it should be by ballot of the SDP MPs.

The area parties sponsoring the options give a summary of their reasons. The Newcastle upon Tyne party, putting forward the first option, says: "The leader will set the direction, style and public image of our party. He or she must have the widest appeal to the party and the country. We believe that 78,000 members are better judges of that than an electoral college of MPs."

The Hounslow party, proposing the second method, says: "The SDP wants to change Parliament. It will not do so by taking the choice of its parliamentary leader out of the hands of members of Parliament." To suggest that the leader, and possible Prime Minister, should be chosen for the SDP more caring and to bring it closer in touch with the people it is there to serve, while at the same time trying to deliver services in as efficient and low cost way as we can.

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Local polls challenge, page 2

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Pensioners' benefit risk

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Pensioners are most likely to be forced into hardship by the new rules disqualifying anyone from receiving supplementary benefit if they have more than £2,000 in capital. That was disclosed yesterday in the report of the Supplementary Benefit Policy Inspectorate on the effects of the new rule.

Six of every 10 people who had their benefit stopped under the new rule were pensioners who lost between £1 and over £30 a week in benefit. The typical pensioner cut off from benefit by the new rule was aged over 70, female and living alone.

CORRECTION

Mr William Reed-Davies MP states that Judge Pickles in a case, reported on March 31, in which two families were awarded damages for an abandoned holiday at a villa on Corfu, accepted that the contract was based entirely on a brochure and did not find that Mr Reed-Davies had described the villa as "the best on the island".

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$28; Bahrain \$D 0.50; Belgium \$17; Canada \$25; Denmark \$12; France \$15; Germany \$12; Greece \$12; Hong Kong \$12; India \$12; Italy \$12; Japan \$12; Korea \$12; Lebanon \$12; Luxembourg \$12; Malaysia \$12; Mexico \$12; Netherlands \$12; New Zealand \$12; Norway \$12; Oman \$12; Pakistan \$12; Portugal \$12; Saudi Arabia \$12; Singapore \$12; South Africa \$12; Sweden \$12; Switzerland \$12; Taiwan \$12; Thailand \$12; Turkey \$12; U.A.R. \$12; U.K. \$12; U.S.A. \$12; Yugoslavia \$12.

سكربت الامل

FALKLANDS CRISIS/1

Admiral pins his faith on air superiority

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

Air superiority could be crucial in determining any confrontation between the Royal Navy task force and the Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands. Achieving it, however, could present Rear Admiral John Woodward and his senior commanders with their greatest problems.

The task force will have an estimated 20 Sea Harrier jets, 12 in HMS Hermes and eight in HMS Invincible. The Argentines have one aircraft carrier, the elderly 25th of May which has a peacetime complement of 14 A4 Skyhawks — but will probably have more on board from its reserve in the event of a naval battle.

The Harrier is technically a small offensive aircraft, with a performance constrained by the sacrifices made to enable it to take off and land vertically. On the other hand the Navy, like the RAF, launch Harriers from a short take-off. They also have the advantage of the ski-jump, the ramp in the bows which gives the aircraft extra lift into the air.

In the context of an isolated sea battle the Harrier offers the Navy a great deal — and its potential as a ground attack aircraft in support of an amphibious landing, is indicated by its adoption by the United States Marines.

The Navy has the latest Sea Dart area air defence missile which is installed on HMS Invincible and three Sheffield class destroyers in the force. Other ships including three of the four Leander frigates and two Amazon class frigates, which are better equipped with the force, have the older, shorter range SeaCat.

But the Argentines have two Sheffield class anti-aircraft destroyers of their own — with Sea Dart on board — sold by Britain in the kind of deal which might have made economic sense at the time. Their light cruiser, which is on station there, is also equipped with 70 or so SeaCats. So to some extent, like is facing like — even if Royal Navy sailors, being all professional, should have

more expertise in using their anti-aircraft weapons.

The chief difficulty for Admiral Woodward, however, is that the Argentine coast is only about 400 miles from Port Stanley, while Britain is 8,000 miles away. This puts any naval battle within range of the Argentine Air Force's 68 Skyhawks, which have an average tactical radius of action of around 70 miles, and its squadron of 19 Mirage interceptors with a similar range.

This would not provide the Argentine Navy with additional air cover if they engaged the British in the area of South Georgia, about 800 miles to the south-east. But this would seem unlikely anyway. Current thinking is that the British task force, 3,500 miles away from its "forward" base on Ascension Island, will make first for

South Georgia where the current crisis first erupted, in the hope of securing a foothold in the South Atlantic.

From there, they would then mount their assault first on the Argentine Navy and then, all being well, on the Falklands themselves which means in effect Port Stanley.

The Sea Harriers would probably be needed to provide air cover for the Royal Marines and other troops as they storm ashore — if the worst comes to the worst. That would leave the Navy's surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to protect the carriers and other warships from the Argentine mainland. Meanwhile the effectiveness of Argentine carrier borne aircraft might be neutralized by action taken against the carrier itself by hunter-killer submarines.

Gales and ice ahead

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The task force is sailing into a stormy part of the ocean at the first time of the year. Although the main islands of East and West Falkland, separated by a 25 miles-wide strait are at about the same latitude in the southern hemisphere as London is in the northern half, the climate is more severe. Ice could be encountered at South Georgia.

Conditions at sea are similar to those in the North Atlantic Approaches off the Outer Hebrides, but the weather is colder. The latitude of the Falklands, and 200 small islands scattered around, is between 51 degrees and 53 degrees south.

Most of them miss the full force of the Roaring Forties which sweep across the middle latitudes of the south. Nevertheless a persistent wind of about 15 knots blows from the north-east of the year. The frequency of gale force winds and heavy seas increases as winter approaches at the end of April.

If the area of operations extends as far as South Georgia, the crews would begin to feel the harsh effects of the Antarctic convergence. Although pack ice does not extend as far as South Georgia, the bays of that island are covered early in winter. But the coastline of the main islands is deeply indented and provides many secure and sheltered anchorages. Those natural harbours were used in preparation for one of the principal battles of the First World War. The battle of the Falklands commanded under Vice-Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee and a German squadron under Vice-Admiral Graf von Spee, was a reprisal by the British for earlier losses at sea.

For this second encounter, two battle cruisers, Invincible and Inflexible, were detached secretly from the Grand Fleet in the North Sea to reinforce the British squadron in the South Atlantic. All but one of the German squadron was sunk.



Defiant gesture: A confident Falkland Islander under the Argentine flag

Carrier crew to get smell of cordite

From John Witherow, on board HMS Invincible, April 6

Part of the British naval force bound for the Falkland Islands rendezvoused in the South Western Approaches today while HMS Invincible, the anti-submarine carrier, started to bring its Harrier jets and Sea King helicopters to full operational capacity.

HMS Fearless, the assault ship carrying Marines and Commodore Michael Clapp, overall commander of this section of the fleet, sailed from Portsmouth and was due to join the force within the next day or so. Some frigates and other vessels were already with Invincible and the flagship HMS Hermes, but the Navy was reluctant to publicize details of the force.

Once the ships have assembled they will head to night in the direction of the Falklands to meet the rest of the fleet which is sailing for Ascension Island from operations off Gibraltar.

Preparations on board Invincible, which has been sold to the Australians and is due to leave in a few days, will continue with vertical take-off Harrier jets practising mock combat and evading "enemy" radar systems by skimming in low over the waves. For some of the pilots it is their first time on board the ship and they have been acclimatising themselves to landing on a platform while still within range of mainland bases.

To facilitate operations the carrier circled at only a few knots in calm about 100 miles south of the South Isles while last-minute supplies were flown on board by helicopter.

Captain Jeremy Black, aged 50, addressed the crew after a full-scale practice emergency and outlined the respective strengths of the British and Argentine fleets, the route the ship would be following and the type of preparations to be undertaken as the carrier headed for the South Atlantic.

to fire at least one missile near the carrier. "We're going to get them used to bangs going off around the ship," Commander Ward added. "The captain wants the crew to get used to the smell of cordite."

Meanwhile the Sea King squadron was practising take-offs and landings on the flight deck and approaches to the ship. Both Harriers and helicopters are keen to do some night flying at this early stage but the Sea Kings, designed to seek and destroy enemy submarines, were not yet training with torpedoes and depth charges. About a third of the helicopter crews have joined from other squadrons and are taking time to accustom themselves to the Invincible.

Captain Black told journalists that the fleet's progress south would depend upon decisions taken by the Foreign and Defence Ministries but they intended to proceed at something under 10 knots towards the 100 to 200 mile zone that would enable Invincible and Hermes to train their aircraft against one another out of radar range and allow the smaller vessels to keep up.

One important factor preoccupying the task force is the necessity for replenishment of supplies. To conduct operations 4,000 miles from the nearest base is quite a thing to do, the captain said. The fleet will be accompanied by a number of supply vessels and there are plans to send out relief craft but it is undoubtedly a problem exercising the minds of Naval Command.

The present period of training is a time to get the ships to full fighting capacity and to make some adjustments. "We are a navy who tend to train against a Russian threat and here we see some slight changes in that," he said. "It's what I am talking about is a matter of detail but nonetheless important."

Navy's biggest headache is replenishing supplies from a base 4,000 miles away

He said the ship was capable of coping with chemical or nuclear contaminated zones by sealing itself and building up a higher air pressure inside and was well equipped to cope with flooding.

There has been an unofficial change in the identification of lifejackets aboard ship. A notice in the flying clothing store reads: "Due to the untimely death of Mae West all Mark II, 15 and 25 life preservers will be now known as Dolly Partons."

Underneath someone has scribbled "or, Erica Bees".

HMS Fearless, the assault ship which will spearhead any attempt to regain the Falkland Islands, yesterday gathered her brood of landing craft like ducklings under her wing and moved out from Portsmouth to join the task force (Stewart Trender writes).

On a cold, wet and windswept day there was little sign of the thousands who gathered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the docks, their faces lit with the excitement of the war. But as Fearless nosed out of the harbour, people began to appear on the harbour walls. Many were mothers and wives of some of them openly in tears.

For there was no doubt that Fearless's bellicose appearance. The decks were lined with men from the 580-strong crew while at there were ranks of Marines dressed in battle fatigues. In their midst were ranged field and anti-aircraft guns, part of the equipment for a Marine force of 500-700 men on the ship.

General's gamble

Retreat could cost Galtieri his job

By Peter Stafford

Argentina is a potentially rich country with enormous natural resources, as almost every Argentine is aware. But it has suffered badly from misgovernment, both civilian and military, in recent years, and the result is that it has failed to fulfil the promise which it showed earlier this century.

General Leopoldo Galtieri, who came to power last December in a bloodless coup within the regime, is only the latest in a long line of military men who have taken the view that they know what is best for the country. His declared objective, like those of his immediate predecessors, is to reverse the decline and begin a process of national reconstruction.

The difference is that he has decided to set about it in a flamboyant and adventurous style. He clearly sees the invasion of the Falklands, which almost all Argentines regard as being properly theirs, as being a popular issue.

If he pulls it off, he will have succeeded in distracting attention, at least for a time, from the economic hardships now afflicting the country. If he is forced to withdraw, he will suffer a humiliating setback which will not be forgiven either by Argentine public opinion or by his fellow members of the armed forces, who could be counted on to try to remove him from power.

The present military regime took power in 1976 at a time of exceptional distress in Argentina. Strongly armed and well financed guerrilla groups were active in many parts of the country; and the economy was in ruins, with inflation reaching 54 per cent in a single month and the currency reserves reduced to almost nothing.

The tottering government of President Maria Estela Peron, widow of Juan Peron, was plainly unequal to the task of running the country, and the intervention of the armed forces, headed by General Rafael Videla, was widely welcomed.

On the economic front the new military government had some success, initially, at least in restoring normality, boosted by the natural resilience of the Argentine economy. Inflation was brought down, along traditional liberal lines.

But the operations on the other front, against the guerrillas, were more controversial. In the face of an admittedly serious threat, the armed forces made a deliberate decision to wage a "dirty war", in which anyone who was even suspected of sympathies with the guerrillas, or of having any sort of contact with them, was liable to be kidnapped, tortured and killed.

The policy was successful, in that the guerrillas were virtually eliminated from Argentine life. But in the process thousands of people, many of them completely innocent, disappeared and are now presumed to be dead.

In recent years the number of disappearances has dwindled to almost nothing, with the elimination of the guerrilla groups. But the issue remains an active one in Argentine life, since relatives of those who disappeared are maintaining their pressure for information on what happened and regularly demonstrate outside the presidential palace in the Plaza de Mayo.

Since the armed forces took over, there have been no elections and there have been severe restrictions on the activities of political parties and trade unions. The regime maintains a constant repetition, its public commitment to a restoration of democracy, but it has avoided committing itself to a precise timetable.

In the last year or two there has, however, been an easing of the atmosphere. There has been more activity by the parties, which has been reported in the papers, and General Galtieri apparently sees himself as eventually heading some political party or movement which, if all goes well for him, would be swept into office.

But his main problem is the state of the economy, which has been in a severe crisis for the past year. Banks and industrial firms have gone bankrupt, and unemployment has soared to an official level of 500,000 with the true figure perhaps two million — very high for a country of some 27 million and one in which until recently unemployment was hardly known.

Inflation is now at 149 per cent, and the value of the peso has plummeted. While dollar workers try to negotiate four pay rises a year, and having two jobs is commonplace.

This state of affairs has led to a resurgence of trade union activity, particularly by the General Confederation of Labour (CGT), which was so powerful in the days of General Peron. Demonstrations were called on March 30, which led to four days of running battles between the police and demonstrators in Buenos Aires.

In external relations, Argentina has developed cordial relations with the Soviet Union, which buys Argentine grain, sells Soviet goods in return and helps defend Argentina against attacks on its territory by the United Nations bodies.

The extent of the Soviet link became painfully obvious to Washington when the Argentines refused to go along with the American grain embargo against Moscow after the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Reagan administration has made great efforts to mend fences with Buenos Aires, and is clearly embarrassed by the Falklands affair.

Alliance's boat rocked by Steel

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Action by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to prepare for an early general election over the Falklands crisis last night caused new divisions within the party, which he is to advise party negotiators to speed up their negotiations on the division of parliamentary seats with the Social Democrats, completing the carve-up before the new deadline of April 20.

But this was done last night by senior Social Democratic sources who described the move as irresponsible at a time when all parties in the Commons should be seen to be rallying around the Government in its resolve to win back the occupied British territory.

While Mr Steel believes that an ultimate solution may yet have to be built around the possibility of turning the Falklands into a United Nations dependency, an idea that may yet be extended to Gibraltar and Hongkong, his alliance partners feel most strongly that negotiation should concentrate on a return to British sovereignty.

The Liberals also appear to be less resolute on the issue of force, echoing one Labour spokesman's comment that the Falklands "can be won by blank cheques for the military solution."

The Social Democratic argument is that talk of an early election, United Nations dependency and qualifications to the use of force all help to undermine the Government's position.

The strikes earlier this year have been made by the total consortium, which includes the Argentine company Bridas, in a block fairly close to Rio Grande. Preliminary results from the 1 mile deep Aries X-1 will have shown the existence of 1,300 cubic yards of gas a day through a three-quarter inch choke which is considered by oil experts to be significant but it still has to be evaluated fully. Last year Shell and Exxon reported finds of 5,360 barrels a day and 3,100 respectively.

Further exploration has come to a head because of the dispute over the Atlantic shelf. It had won a

manifestly be the proper method of settling the Falkland Islands dispute. Argentina claims to be entitled to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. So does the United Kingdom. Such an international legal dispute "should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court... in accordance with the provisions of its statute (Article 36 [3]) of the Charter. The optional clause has been subscribed to by 45 states to date."

The conduct of Argentina during the last few days does not spell out to the world much confidence in the UN Charter or the validity of Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. No doubt that was a factor which the UN Security Council took into account, as it has before, when adopted last Saturday's resolution demanding an immediate cessation of hostilities, and the immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falklands and called on Argentina and Britain to seek a diplomatic solution of their differences and to respect fully the charter.

Argentina has now violated at least two of the charter's principles: to settle its dis-

Oil a key factor in attempts to resolve the crisis

By Michael Frenchman

A preliminary contract option from the Argentine state oil agency YPF to negotiate prospecting rights in the controversial Magallanes Estero offshore block, which straddles what is called the "putative" medium line between the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland, Atlantic Richfield's consortium included Mobil which later dropped out possibly because of the political position. Technically speaking, the islands only have a three-mile limit as Britain has never declared a 200-mile economic zone around the islands. In any case, this would not have been recognized by the Argentine Government as it claims sovereignty of all the waters anyhow.

The British Government was unaware of the prospective risk contract until when it was drawn to its attention by The Times it took the unusual step of publishing an advertisement in the press warning international oil companies not to go ahead.

Argentina is currently more than 95 per cent self-sufficient in oil and gas but is anxious to become a net exporter in order to boost its ailing economy which is why it has stepped up the offshore drilling programme on the basis of risk contracts.

Oil industry sources claim that the overall prospects are encouraging, but until a proper exploration programme over the whole area has been carried out it is impossible to say whether the Atlantic Richfield said last night that they

had shown an interest in the disputed Magallanes Estero block, which adjoins waters where test drilling has been carried out, because the seismic data "looked encouraging."

The Foreign Office is in the past been consulting on numerous occasions about applications for drilling off the Falklands but has refused to grasp the problem, the hope that companies would lose and go away.

One oil expert has said that the indications are that oil and gas deposits are being found in the South Atlantic, which is a geological name for part of the continental shelf. This layer lies between the Argentine mainland and the islands and dips to the east.

It is thought that the main reservoir, if it exists, will be closer to the islands than the mainland. But this cannot be proved until test drilling takes place. This has not happened because the British Government has not been able to reach agreement with Argentina.

Over the last 18 months, Argentine Foreign Ministry officials have privately expressed extreme frustration at Britain's attitude over this matter as they would have liked to see some kind of joint proposal for a "production sharing agreement". It now seems possible that such negotiations for a joint production agreement, bringing in the United States as guarantor, in return for a share of the revenue, could lead to a possible basis for a transfer of sovereignty lease-back settlement.

View of an eminent authority

International law would favour the British argument

Despite the emotional tide which swept through the House of Commons during last Saturday's emergency debate few references to the international law aspect of the Falkland Islands debacle could be detected. The paucity of order, marked by the Speaker's repeated calls for order, was equalled only by the rarity of attention to the legal nature of the issues and proposals put before the House.

The Prime Minister informed the House that the unprovoked aggression by the government of Argentina had not a shred of justification or a scrap of legality. This cannot be gainsaid. The conduct of Argentina is a classic violation of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter — prohibition of the use of force against the territory of any state — to which Argentina has been a party since October 24, 1945, when that paramount international law instrument came into force.

It might also be pointed out that at no time has Argentina subscribed to the optional clause of the International Court of Justice accepting its compulsory jurisdiction. Judicial settlement would

manipulate with Britain by peaceful means, and to refrain from the use or threat of force against the territorial integrity of any state (Article 2(3) and Article 2(4) respectively).

The UK claims, according to Mr. Nott, the Defence Secretary, to have dispatched its task force as its right of self-defence under Article 51 of the charter, sometimes called the most over-worked provision of the charter. The Prime Minister has thus given this country room to move both within the mandatory terms of the Security Council's resolutions cited and in lawful exercise of the UK's "inherent" right of self-defence under the charter.

Mrs Thatcher stated in the parliamentary debate that she could not foresee what orders the task force would receive as it proceeded. That, she said, would depend on the situation. Meanwhile, as she reiterated at question time yesterday, she hoped that continuing diplomatic efforts, helped by Britain's many friends, would be successful.

The "inherent" right is in this instance and individual self-defence. The Falkland Islands stand outside the geographical limits of the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization area under the Atlantic Treaty, which the right of self-defence being "inherent", is exemplified, that not exhaustively by its formulation in the charter.

The famous formulation of the US Secretary of State, Daniel Webster, in 1823, stated: "There must be necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means and no moment for deliberation... it must involve nothing unreasonable or excessive since the act justified by the necessity of self-defence must be limited by that necessity and kept clearly within it." This formula received endorsement in a judgment of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946, and was unanimously reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly in the same year (Resolution 95 (I)).

The length of sailing time for the task force to reach the Falkland Islands is thus not without its legal significance. The degree of armed force which may lawfully be exercised by that task force will depend on the quantity and quality of armed assistance to it by the Argentine forces in seeking to prevent the UK forces liberating the islands.

If, however, diplomatic activities have proved successful during the voyage of the task force or at its close, the amount of armed force that may be justified in law will have reached vanishing point.

Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, proposed during the debate that Britain declare its right to a 200-mile limit around the Falklands. It would, he said, "be compatible with international law to declare within that limit that no Argentine vessel should appear, and if it did, the British Navy would take action."

This is a curious proposal. In time of armed conflict at sea, such a limit would restrict action by the Royal Navy to an extent not required by international law. In time of normality a 200-mile limit would be difficult to justify because such a claim for a territorial sea is not yet accepted in international law.

More curiously, and what was not mentioned by any MP during the debate, but which may be immediately practical, is the humanitarian treatment that must be accorded to any UK service man or merchant seaman captured by the Argentine

forces, as required by the Geneva (Prisoner of War) Convention, 1949, and the like treatment which must be accorded to our civilian nationals now in the occupied Falkland Islands, under the Geneva (Civilians) Convention, 1949.

Argentina is a party to both conventions and it is this country. For this purpose it would appear that both Argentina and this country will be bound, as a matter of international law, to accept the offer of the humanitarian services of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Saturday's debate in the Commons, generally, was not illuminating, so far as international law was concerned. This is odd because the validity of all our present actions directed against Argentina, whether naval, military or economic, are based on that international law. If not so based, they have no validity whatsoever. International law may need more attention than it has so far received in this incident.

Perhaps today's debate will be focussed more precisely.

G I A D Draper
(Professor Emeritus in Law Sussex University)

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FALKLANDS CRISIS/2

Expatriate Britons are getting out fast

From Christopher Thomas Buenos Aires, April 6

The expatriate British community in Buenos Aires is in a state of panic. The signs of tension are there, the easy atmosphere has gone, and if the Falklands are stormed their days in Argentina will be miserable if not over.

Each day charter aircraft are hired in Montevideo, half an hour's flight away, to take Britons home. They are all packed with businessmen and their families heading the advice from the British Government to get out fast.

They cannot transfer money through the banks any more and their cars are "frozen", so they cannot drive them out of the country.

But they choose to flee because the Argentine people who are notoriously volatile, are becoming increasingly restive with every advance of the British task force and anything could happen at any time.

A few days ago firms employing British people in Argentina were advised by the embassy in Buenos Aires, which is now officially the property of the Swiss, to get all non-vital personnel out in 48 hours. The exodus has been carried out efficiently, swiftly and almost unnoticed.

But what of the thousands who remain? What if the anti-British sentiments now sweeping the country get out of hand?

The mood in the English Club in central Buenos Aires is gloomy, depressing and fearful. A few days ago a policeman stationed himself outside the front door, ostensibly watching the comings and goings of those who regu-

larly take lunch or a sun-downer in the colonial surroundings of their distinctly British enclave.

There are probably 17,000 people of British origin who hold British passports in Argentina and who are therefore, highly vulnerable to persecution. But even those with Argentine passports in some of them fifth-generation Argentines — feel uneasy.

The British are found everywhere in the country. The Welsh community in Pinar del Rio, the Welsh, Spanish and no English. The English and Scots communities are completely bilingual, mostly Argentine born.

They are confused by their division of loyalties and bitter over what they see as the mishandling of the Falklands affair.

The general view is that Britain failed to read the warning signs, which were patently obvious three months ago and that the counter-invasion is a bad idea. Argentines generally respect the British, the railways, telephones, meat plants and much else were developed by Britons, and La Torre de Los Ingleses (The English Tower) built and donated by the British community in 1910, is one of the most delightful pieces of architecture in the city.

Buenos Aires happily absorbs a great deal of British culture. There is the hospital Británico, the British orphanage, the Sunset House for the elderly and St John's Anglican Cathedral and a host of British churches and schools. They could be threatened.

The British Community Council administers many charities collecting huge sums for those who cannot pay for schooling or medical care or who cannot survive the absurd inflation rate. The target this year is \$300,000 (about to be raised by raffles, fetes, functions and various other means).

The St Andrews Society, which survives the defeat of the English Society and Welsh Society, organizes a pipe band with full Scottish regalia. The Latin art asghast by it but they have accepted it, though there is a good deal of sniggering at the kilts and the rest of the paraphernalia.

Our British community has fragmented a great deal since the war. Lamented one senior member of the English Club who, like everybody else, said it could be dangerous to name him. "But we continue to survive, we have kept our British identity but equally we feel we are Argentinian."

He drank his British gin. "But if they try to take back the Malvinas we will not be safe. Three policemen are already guarding the British Caledonian office and we have that chap outside guarding us. It's all a great deal of bloody shame."

He left his deep leather armchair, passed by the huge photograph of central London, and walked out into the stifling autumn air. He said a friendly, almost hopeful good night to the policeman. There was no reply.



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World reaction

UK had too much faith — France

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, yesterday described the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands as an "attack pure and simple," which had not been preceded by any provocation (Charles Hargrove writes from Paris). The minister, who was being interviewed on the radio, added that the security of Argentina has not been threatened by Britain. He also expressed personal regret over the resignation of Lord Carrington as Foreign Secretary.

The British Government, he added, had perhaps put excessive faith in negotiations with the Argentine Government over the future of the islands. This could explain the absence of preparation against the possible military landing on them.

The affair was a very serious one, this explained the very clear stand taken by the United Nations Security Council on the matter. M Cheysson declared on Monday night in Paris, where he had gone to meet President Amadou Adjiou of Cameroon, on a private visit to the country.

"In the Malouines (Falklands)," he said in today's interview, "Britain has been attacked from the outside, without there being the least symptom of a local revolt, which he implied, would have justified the operation as an anti-colonialist one. M Cheysson explained the violence of the reaction of British public opinion by the fact that 'Britain is a great country with a glorious history, and its people acted like a nation which feels humiliated'."

About Lord Carrington's resignation, M Cheysson said: "He is a man of great qualities, astute, experienced, with a great sense of humour. We shall miss him a lot. I would add that I am not surprised that, faced with all the criticism levelled at him in the House of Commons, he decided to take upon himself the whole responsibility for this affair, for he is a man of honour."

The minister had established close personal relations with his British opposite number. They stood Franco-British relations in good stead in the rough weather which they periodically have to face, and

prevented natural conflicts of interest over Community policy from degenerating into fundamental misunderstandings.

He added: "The decision of the Security Council condemning Argentina is a very rare decision, and many countries in the world are going to apply themselves to persuading it to agree to a diplomatic solution. It is hard for me to imagine that a country like Argentina could ignore a Security Council decision."

Le Monde, which is not usually inclined to make any concessions to what it describes as Britain's lack of European conviction, paid a fulsome tribute to the former Foreign Secretary yesterday. "He is probably not a convinced European (but are there any in Britain?)" the paper says. "And he took good care not to reveal any differences with the Prime Minister, whose style was nevertheless the opposite of his."

But his realism, his moderation, his professionalism, earned him the respect and esteem of his partners in the Community. They knew that if there existed a possibility of agreement, Lord Carrington would not let it pass by. His departure will not facilitate agreement among the Europeans."

The French Government is studying the British demand for the imposition of sanctions against Argentina. The demand will be studied by the experts of the Ten in Brussels. The Foreign Ministry refused to state what attitude France would adopt on the matter.



M. Claude Cheysson: Regrets at Lord Carrington's departure

Canberra: Cabinet recalls ambassador

The Australian federal cabinet decided to recall its ambassador from Argentina for "urgent reasons," Mr Malcolm Fraser will return to Australia immediately. Mr Anthony Street, foreign minister, said that the decision had been made to express Australia's deep concern and condemnation of the Falklands invasion (The Melbourne correspondent writes).

The Government will consider implementing trade restrictions against Argentina but Mr Malcolm Fraser, the prime minister, ruled out sending Australian troops to the area.

He said that he did not see Australia going to war in the Falkland Islands but he had written to Mrs Thatcher and indicated that Australia strongly supported Britain.

Mr Michael Mackellar the acting Foreign Minister, told Senator Orlando Cappellini the Argentine Ambassador of the governments concern. The minister said that the ambassador was given copies of statements made by the Prime Minister and Mr Mackellar during the week-end. Mr Cappellini had been prepared to be ordered to leave.

Earlier on Monday Sir John Mason the British High Commissioner saw Mr Mackellar at Sir John's request and the Australian Ambassador in Buenos Aires called on the Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister.

The New Zealand Government had ordered the Argentine Ambassador to leave New Zealand and told the Argentine national airline to discontinue its flights between Buenos Aires and Auckland.

remnant of the colonial empire and charged that the "smell of petrodollars in part prevented Britain from recognizing Argentina's historic claim to the islands through 17 years of fruitless negotiations."

The commentary said that the Argentine Government's dramatic decision to invade the islands and the British decision to dispatch the fleet could have consequences which went beyond the two parties concerned as indicated by Saturday's stormy debate in the Security Council.

Poland abstained in the vote on the British resolution calling for a withdrawal of Argentine forces.

Hague: No weapons

The Dutch Government aligned itself with Britain and banned weapons shipments to Argentina.

A Dutch firm has a contract to provide electronic guidance systems for Argentine warships under construction in West German shipyards. They will not be delivered.

□ Bonn — If Argentina does not withdraw, the West German Government may decide to halt delivery of frigates and converted ordered by Argentina under a major construction programme, but cancellation would threaten thousands of jobs in West German shipyards.

□ Tokyo — Britain has called on Japan publicly to condemn Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands, but Japanese officials said privately that it would be difficult for Japan to join in economic sanctions against Argentina because it was friendly with both countries.

Argentine import licences revoked

By Rupert Morris

All imports from Argentina into Britain worth more than £100m a year were banned from midnight last night, the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

All import licences were immediately revoked, but consideration would be given to application from British exporters for licences to import goods which could be shown to have been in transit before the ban took effect.

Mr Peter Rees, the Trade Minister, said: "Argentine exports to the United Kingdom in the last four months of 1981 were worth £25m, substantially more than the £47m worth of goods exported from the United Kingdom to Argentina."

This balance of trade is thought to be atypical, however, as the Department of Trade statistics for 1980 — the latest complete year's figures — show the value of Britain's exports to Argentina as £173m, compared with imports from the same country worth £114m.

About half Britain's imports from Argentina consist of meat, which in 1980 was worth £23m. Of this half was corned beef, and half frozen cuts of prime beef, mainly for use by big catering chains and steak houses.

Mr Jack Bailey, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders, which represents High Street butchers, said there would be no effect on shop prices. The Australians had a lot of beef to sell and he expected any shortfall to be made up by them.

Importers of frozen beef were, however, concerned that other producers might put up their prices to cope with increased demand.

Importers and retailers of corned beef were more worried that public reaction against Argentina's corned beef would harm the retail trade. Tesco, the supermarket chain, has removed all Argentine corned beef from its shelves.

Confusion over payments freeze

Argentina's move to suspend payments to creditors and British residents announced in Buenos Aires yesterday by Señor Roberto Alemann, the Economy Minister, has led to deepening confusion in financial circles (Peter Wilson-Smith writes).

The move was taken in retaliation for the blocking of Argentine assets by the British Government but it is still unclear to what extent banks in Britain, which have lent Argentina \$5,800m (£3,300m), will be affected.

There were indications from one big British bank yesterday that repayments from Argentina had already been frozen, and there is concern that the Argentine move may open the way for one of its bank creditors to call it in default with wide-ranging implications for financial markets.

Correction

The officer appointed by Argentina to be "Governor" of the Falkland Islands is General Mario Benjamin Menéndez and not Luciano Benjamin Menéndez whose profile was published yesterday.

EEC asked to unite on trade sanctions

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain today puts its case for a united EEC front of trade sanctions against Argentina at a meeting of permanent representatives to the Community. The member states were asked to take action quickly in order to show their common disapproval of the invasion of the Falkland Islands.

Britain was not expecting the other member states to take as severe an approach as it had done itself, and there was no suggestion that other countries should be asked to sever diplomatic relations with the Argentine junta.

Nevertheless, Britain was hoping for trade sanctions covering steel, footwear, agricultural products and textiles to be introduced quickly.

In preparation for such measures the European Commission was working on a draft proposal for sanctions based on article 224 of the Treaty of Rome. This says that member states should consult and take steps together to prevent the European Community being affected by any measures brought in by an individual country in certain defined circumstances.

These include: "Serious international tension constituting a threat of war, or in order to carry out obligations it has accepted for the purpose of maintaining peace and international security."

The Commission itself discussed the Falkland crisis at its meeting this morning and issued a statement afterwards condemning "the armed intervention of Argentina"

against a British territory linked to the Community, an intervention committed in violation of international law and the rights of the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands."

The statement went on: "The Commission expresses its solidarity with the United Kingdom. It makes an urgent appeal to the Argentine Government to implement the resolution of the United Nations Security Council, calling on it to withdraw its troops from the islands and to continue seeking a diplomatic solution."

It expresses the hope that the Organization of the American States will join its efforts to those of the United Nations in order to ensure, by diplomatic means, that a solution based on law prevails."

The Commission cannot take any action on the issue without the approval of the ministerial council. Sanctions could, however, be agreed between the permanent representatives and passed on for formal approval by whichever council is next held. At the moment, this is scheduled to be that of the agriculture ministers on April 20. Unless a special meeting is called for at short notice this would be the first date on which an EEC response could be properly agreed.

The EEC has a positive trade balance of about £25m with Argentina, but if the categories suggested by Britain for sanctions, the community has a trade deficit.

There is, in any case, no obvious prospect of a Spanish and Argentine claims on British territories. Spain has tried to exert pressure over Gibraltar for years, but a military intervention has not been in prospect.

The Foreign Office included extensive briefings on the Falklands crisis. He had to prepare himself for the formidable task of opening for the Government in the debate on the Falklands in the Commons today.

It was being underlined that his becoming Foreign Secretary does not imply any change of policy, whatever changes of emphasis or style may emerge from the new holder of the office.

The point of departure for a British foreign policy remains the United Nations Security Council resolution demanding Argentine withdrawal from the Falklands. The sailing of the naval task force for the South Atlantic was depicted as being intended to strengthen diplomacy, while the overall aim remained to avoid war.

But it was also being emphasized that the withdrawal of the Argentine occupying forces from the islands remained an absolute condition for any settlement.

It has apparently been clear to the United States that if Washington was thinking in terms of any political initiatives, a solution would have to involve the removal of the Argentine troops.

President Reagan has said that America would do all that could be achieved to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict.

As well as having to cope with the finer points of the crisis, Mr Pym is already finding out that a foreign secretary cannot focus on one subject exclusively at a time. The office involves coping with a constant flow of advice and discussions

Pym puts off his Mideast trips

By Denis Taylor

Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, will not be going to Syria and Jordan next week for the visits planned by Lord Carrington, because of the crisis over the Falkland Islands.

It was being emphasized in Whitehall last night that the trips to Damascus and Amman have been postponed, not cancelled.

Even before Lord Carrington's resignation, the possibility of the visits taking place had looked extremely remote.

But last night there were no plans to change arrangements for the meeting of British and Spanish foreign ministers at Sintra, Portugal, on April 20 for talks on the future of Gibraltar. This is the date on which the Spaniards are due to open the gates on their side of the frontier with Gibraltar.

The great importance which Madrid attaches to a whole range of developments involving Britain is appreciated in London. These include the prospect of British membership to the EEC and Nato, as well as the opening of the Gibraltar border.

Whitehall sources would not be drawn into commenting on the enthusiasm with which the Argentine invasion of the Falklands has been greeted in some circles on the Spanish right, beyond saying that the British Government was aware of these sentiments.

There is, in any case, no obvious prospect of a Spanish and Argentine claims on British territories. Spain has tried to exert pressure over Gibraltar for years, but a military intervention has not been in prospect.

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Haig rejects freeze on nuclear arms

Washington, April 6. — Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that a proposed freeze on new nuclear weapons would put Western civilization at risk and increase the likelihood of global devastation.

In the most comprehensive statement so far of the Reagan Administration's nuclear arms policy, Mr Haig said the non-communist world must reject a freeze and avoid the consequences of nuclear catastrophe and nuclear blackmail.

"By maintaining the military balance and sustaining deterrence, we protect the essential values of Western civilization," he said.

"The failing to maintain deterrence, we would risk our freedoms, while actually increasing the likelihood of also suffering nuclear devastation."

Mr Haig's remarks, in a speech at the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International Studies, was the Administration's latest effort to counter growing calls for a halt to the arms race.

Mr Richard Perle Assistant Defence Secretary said last week that a freeze at existing levels, as proposed by 175 members of Congress, would lock in Soviet superiority and reduce prospects for arms reductions.

The Administration has also been trying to regain the initiative in world public opinion that American officials concede has been captured by President Brezhnev in recent weeks.

President Reagan called for dramatic reductions in nuclear arms in a press conference last week and at another session with reporters yesterday he invited

the Soviet leader to meet him in New York this summer to discuss arms control.

But Mr Reagan's comments, particularly his claim that Moscow has gained clear nuclear superiority, sparked new criticism from arms control advocates.

Mr Haig today rejected calls for a freeze, for renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and for submitting to Soviet demands rather than risking nuclear war, a position popularly known as "better red than dead."

A western pledge against using nuclear weapons first would be "a step towards conventional aggression," he said.

"If the West were to allow Moscow the freedom to choose the level of conflict which most suited him and to leave us subject to Soviet discretion the nature and timing of any escalation, we would be forced to maintain conventional forces at least at the level of those of the Soviet Union and its allies," he said.

He repeated administration arguments that freezing American and Soviet nuclear arsenals at existing levels would perpetuate an unstable and unequal military balance, reward a decade of unilateral Soviet buildup and remove all incentives to engage in meaningful arms control designed to cut armaments and reduce the risk of war.

Western deterrence, he said, depended upon its ability even after suffering a huge nuclear blow to prevent an aggressor from securing military advantage.

A pledge not to use nuclear weapons first would also require military conscription, the tripling of American armed forces and putting the economy on a wartime footing to counterbalance the Soviet conventional advantages.

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Embrace of leaders: Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, during a private audience with the Pope yesterday.

Move to close PLO office in Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, April 6

The assassination of a member of the Israeli embassy in Paris on Saturday, coming after a recrudescence of terrorist attacks against Jewish organizations in the past few months, has brought increasing pressure on the French Government to close down the liaison and information office of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This was opened in October, 1975, and its staff does not enjoy any special or diplomatic status; but its head, being on the Arab diplomatic list, does have

mentioned the closing down of the PLO representation. But a few hours later the Israeli Embassy denied this. The ambassador had submitted no written demand to this effect, but had done so verbally.

Several thousand people demonstrated last night outside the PLO office in the district of Passy, in response to a call of the League Against Racism, and of leading Jewish organizations. These were no incidents, although the atmosphere was tense.

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Doubts emerge on Gibraltar border

From Harry Debelius Madrid, April 6

Reassuring words from the ruling centre party's foreign policy spokesman sen Javier Ruperez failed to dispel doubts in Madrid today on whether the border would reopen as scheduled in two weeks.

Madrid newspapers said that a toughening of the British position on the decolonization of Gibraltar could be expected after the Argentine invasion of the Falkland Islands. They also pointed out that Mr Francis Pym, the new Foreign Secretary, would have little time to devote to the Gibraltar question until the Falklands issue was resolved one way or another.

Señor Ruperez took an optimistic view in an interview broadcast by the state-run Radio Nacional today saying: "As far as the Spanish Government is concerned, there is a will to go ahead with those negotiations, which imply the lifting of Spanish restrictions on Gibraltar on the one hand, and on the other hand, talks about all the Gibraltar-related problems, including the question of sovereignty."

"I think it is in the interest of the British Government itself to maintain the rhythm of the negotiations, the calendar and the time spans which were worked out some time ago with Spain about Gibraltar."

The independent newspaper *El Pais* and the monarchist *ABC* both speculated that the Falklands developments might lead to a postponement of the restoration of land communications between Gibraltar and the rest of the Iberian Peninsula on April 20.

Señor Carlos Mendo, the former London Correspondent of *El Pais*, remarked that recent progress on the Gibraltar issue was the result of personal contacts between Señor Jose Pedro Perez, Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister and Lord Carrington, the former Foreign Secretary.

Señor Mendo also said that the "hypersensitivity of British public opinion at this moment, bordering on hysteria in some communications media" could be expected to inhibit Whitehall in talks aimed at a recovery by Spain of sovereignty over the Rock.

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World on brink of war, says Gandhi

Delhi, April 6. — Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, said today that the global situation was out of control and that the world was "on the brink" of war.

"No country however powerful feels secure today," she told a political convention in Jammu, Kashmir. She blamed the international arms race.

Mrs Gandhi said that the Prime Minister of an "important country" had told her that while nobody wanted war, it was possible that everyone would get involved if one broke out. She was apparently referring to Mrs Margaret Thatcher, whom she met last month in London.

In another speech Mrs Gandhi told Army troops that India needed to be so strong that no one would dare attack it, and that "even if this was done, we should be in a position to repel such an attack." — AP.

Mr Charan Singh, aged 80, the former Indian Prime Minister, who now heads the opposition Lok Dal Party, today announced his decision to retire from "active political life". He told the Press Trust of India: "I have been thinking of retiring from active political life for the last two years or so, but my friends would not release me. I have, however, now taken a decision to this effect."

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*Official Government fuel consumption figures: 505GL Urban cycle: 25 mpg (11.3/100 Km), constant 56 mph: 38.7 mpg (7.3/100 Km), constant 75 mph: 29.4 mpg (9.6/100 Km). 505 FAMILY Urban cycle: 24.8 mpg (11.4/100 Km), constant 56 mph: 40.4 mpg (7.0/100 Km), constant 75 mph: 29.4 mpg (9.6/100 Km).

Britain opposes EEC workers' rights plan

From Ian Murray, Brussels, April 6

Britain stood out alone today against proposals for a Community-wide scheme intended to give workers in multinational companies the right to consultation and employment protection.

An informal meeting of employment ministers in Brussels took a preliminary look at the idea. While most countries wanted to await Parliament's decision on the matter, Mr Norman Tebbit, the British Minister, made it clear that legally binding measures on the subject were contrary to the approach of his Government.

Mr Tebbit said that the Government favoured managed relations between management and employees, and considered that voluntary guidelines such as those laid down by the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were sufficient, Britain did not like legal compulsion in this area.

The British Government had no objection to individual countries introducing national legislation of this kind, but he believed it was not something to be imposed on all member states.

France, which is in the process of drawing up legislation of this kind, said that experience proved that voluntary standards were not observed unless they were supported by law.

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Henry Fairlie reports on the surge of pro-British feeling in Washington over the Falklands

By jingo, we're all rooting for you

Members of the numerous but not usually very gregarious British community in Washington were by last Saturday closing ranks. Expatriates who have not thought of home for years met and abruptly asked each other if they had yet enlisted. Even those who have all but renounced their allegiance to the Queen for the pecuniary rewards of working as an international civil servant in the World Bank had a rush of blood to their heads.

A rather dour acquaintance, who one has always suspected must have come here after being cashiered from the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers for an unappealing offence, brightened appreciably as he said: "I did not think that there would ever again be the occasion to fight for the empire." Another waxed with indignation as he corrected an American: "By God, man, do you not understand that it is a crown colony?"

There were 50 princesses in the city on Saturday, each from a different state, celebrating the annual cherry blossom festival. But not even they could compete with the news, which, with pardonable exaggeration, was whispered through the crowds on Constitution Avenue: "Prince Andrew is leading the Queen's Navee". It was an affecting day for Her Majesty's subjects here but what mattered more was how it affected the Americans.

We had steeled ourselves to meet the attempts at a graceless and disparaging humour. In the opening to almost every story the Falkland Islands were described as "remote" or "obscure". Washington's own and very funny political satirist, Mr Mark Russell, a nightclub performer, was appearing at a private party on Saturday. He began by suggesting that Mr Alexander Haig had difficulty in finding where the islands were.

An Englishman shouted a warning that HMS Invincible was on its way. It was a shot across Mr Russell's bows, which he seemed deliberately to mishear.

"HMS Principal?" he queried with a sniff, or did he mean "HMS Principle"? Backed by the huzzas of a few or our countrymen, even less numerous than the garrison on the Falklands, the Englishman warned that they were an advance naval party.

It seemed clear that we were to be met only "with scoffs, and scorn, and contemptuous taunts". But when Mr Russell at last came to sing his ditty about the evil aggression, he had a pleasant and even exhilarating surprise in his four stanzas. He writes his new material in response to the day's events quickly. But his song on his feet have altered the shot across his bows.

He had set his words to a jaunty, rather Gilbert-and-Sullivan martial air, but not one word failed to punch home. In his first

No-one could compete with the news: 'Prince Andrew is leading the Queen's Navee'

stanza, he played Argentina, savagely mocking its pretensions. Listing the components of its invasion force, he concluded with "the cast of *Evita*". The brave huzzas of the small British contingent were now drowned by the swelling chorus of high-spirited Yankee support.

In his second stanza, his tinkling on the piano only reinforcing his words, he fired his broadside. Having once held back the Nazis single-handed, the British were now being invaded by the Nazis' grandsons. As he let the last line fly — something like "The grandsons of Bormann and Hitler, et al" — the Yankee laughter broke into cheers. George III could have entered the party and been carried shoulder-high.

So to the parting shot in the last line of the song. The British

had discovered that the invasion was an Irish plot. There could have been no more unexpected or funnier ending. But the laughter which erupted also carried wave after wave of resounding cheers. Unmistakably they were anti-Argentina and pro-British. The Englishman who had led the first assault with his small band felt like Sir Roger Keyes at Zeebrugge.

The party was being held to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of a bar near the White House, used mainly by politicians and journalists and those who hang about the margins of both professions. Therefore most of the packed audience were regulars who are politically sensitive, which means that their reactions may not be characteristic of ordinary Americans. But it is no less means that they are interesting.

One could feel the two unmistakable sentiments being woven together by Mr Russell: the surge of pro-British feeling that simply warmed the cockles of one's heart; and the release of a pent-up impatience and disgust with all the shabby dictatorships of Latin America. The mastery in Mr Russell's song was precisely the linking of Britain's stand against the Nazis who fled to Argentina to all the wretched South American dictatorships.

Even if the audience was politically uncharacteristic in its sophistication and sensitivity, it was composed mostly of people who to some degree both register and form public opinion. There is a growing distaste and resentment in the United States at the way the Administration seem willing to truckle to any corrupt and violent regime if only it can present right-wing credentials to satisfy Mr Reagan.

If the British throw the Argentines out of the Falkland Islands, more Americans than perhaps Mr Reagan realizes will stand up and cheer. They cheered and even marvelled when the British in one afternoon repossessed an embassy in London, while all the power of

the US could not get its own people out of its own embassy in Tehran. They will cheer again if the British, in a famous metaphor, now hit the Argentines for six.

One returns then to the serious expressions of opinions here. The newspapers begin by making allowance for what *The New York Times* calls "the comic-opera aspects of the event". *The Washington Post* on Sunday could not decide how to place these comic aspects. On its front page, it referred to the whole affair as "a cross between a nineteenth century melodrama and a Peter Sellers farce". In its editorial, it said that the crisis has "an Alec Guinness quality".

But before *The Washington Post* discovers that it is all much more like Margaret Thatcher in an Agatha Christie film — or the *Goon Show* or even *Ita*, if its memory stretched back so far — one must read on to what these solemn organs of opinion have really said in the intensity of their first animadversions. They are clearly and firmly pro-British and anti-Argentina, and add the weight to Mr Russell's act and his audience's response.

Mrs Thatcher needs the voice of Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury...

The Washington Post says: "The British do not appear to be in a mood to be pushed around; The Brits have nothing to apologize for in the Falklands". It goes on: "Argentina committed aggression. By doing so it removes itself from consideration as an American partner in other hemispheric matters". What one must notice again are the complementary wishes that Argentina and not Britain should be humiliated.

The New York Times says of Argentina: "Beyond that the Administration will have to think

seriously about its relations with a regime that for all its verbal tirades against communism, provides grain and comfort to the Soviet Union, but making human rights embarrassments and military affronts to its western friends". All of these reactions are vital. The British need to realize that they do not only have sympathy here but can have support.

This is a time for the British Government to play skillfully but with candour on American opinion. Having launched a large naval force, it must intend, and be seen to be intending, the exercise of power it represents. Her Majesty's Ministers cannot let Prince Andrew lead the charge — for that is the symbol on which Americans have fixed — and then order him to retreat like the Grand Old Duke of York.

Britain can command wide popular and deeply informed support here. It cannot pursue its ends only through an American Administration which has soiled and tied its hands in Latin America. There is a potential public support for Britain here as it has not really existed since the Suez operation. If the Americans cannot win these days, then, by jingo, they are rooting for the British to win.

What is needed from Mrs Thatcher is the voice of Queen Elizabeth I to her army at Tilbury: "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms".

And I may also be allowed to speak for the British colony here: "Your Majesty, your royal subjects here are ready, a small contingent, but with our right swords, last used at Malton Moor in defence of the Crown, already taken from the walls".

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One person one vote: the only way for Labour

Democracy is breaking out all over the Labour Party, but in some unexpected and certainly unplanned ways. That is the main finding of the first report to be published on how constituencies voted in last year's deputy leadership contest. Today the report goes to Labour's NEC with a request for action.

It was the famous Wembley Conference which decided on a change in how Labour's leaders should be elected. In place of a franchise limited to MPs, power was to be shared with the trade unions and constituency parties. No decision was taken on how the voting should be conducted in these two sections, although it was the intention of some to limit the franchise to the small core of activists who make up each local party's governing body — the general committee. That is not how the reform has worked out in practice.

After all the ballyhoo of electing the deputy leader had died down, we wrote in *Labour's* three weeklies asking for information on parties who extended the franchise beyond the hard core of activists. Forty-nine constituencies replied.

Twenty-one constituencies organized a one person, one vote system because they believed this was the only way party members would be able to have a say in the contest. Some members argued against the postal ballot on the grounds that an important principle was at stake and that only those who were prepared to give the minimum support of coming to a meeting should be allowed to vote.

Most of the 21 constituencies organized a postal vote. Three constituencies organized a ballot on the basis of local and general election procedures. Postal balloting certainly led to a higher turn-out, involving often more than two-thirds of the membership.

A total of 19 constituencies carried out branch ballots, but, surprisingly, there was no single way branches undertook to consult their members.

Some branches invited people to the branch meeting, and those unable to attend gained no vote. Others organized voting by postal ballot, but allowed a postal ballot for those unable to come. Others organized the vote at their regular branch meeting and took the ballot box round to those members not in attendance. There was variation, too, on how the vote was cast at the branch meeting. Some branches conducted a secret ballot while others had a show of hands.

Some branches organized transport for members who would otherwise be unable to come, and this kind of offer, together with how well the branch organized itself, helps to account for the difference in turn-out at branch meetings. One branch reported a turn-out of 77 per cent of those eligible to vote, while another recorded a turn-out as low as 20 per cent.

Nine parties held a mass meeting of members to decide their choice for deputy leader. Most made it a big event with a number of attractions other than voting for the deputy leader.

One of the unexpected consequences of the electoral college is that it has brought into being different classes of ordinary Labour Party members — those who vote in leadership contests and those who cannot. Some members are given the vote in leadership contests while others are disenfranchised, unless they are on their local party's general committee.

The NEC needs to act to ensure that all party mem-

bers have equal rights in electing the leadership. The only way forward is for the NEC to back the principle of one person, one vote and to lay down guidelines on how votes should be cast in the constituency section before any future contest is held in the electoral college.

Our survey showed there are four important issues on which the NEC should rule: (i) Who is eligible? Many parties reported difficulty in deciding who was and who was not eligible to vote. Some decided that members had to be of 12 months' standing. Others of six months' standing, while some parties settled for anybody who held a current membership card. (ii) How to count? There was also a wide variation on how the votes were counted and what they meant once they were counted. Deciding where to count the votes can affect the outcome. Small branches, again, a disproportionate representation on general committees by mandating their general committee delegates. In some cases, this leads to local party supporters, or worse, who, while gaining a majority of votes, on the general committee, was supported by only a minority of individual branch votes.

How the forty-nine made their choice	
Mass meeting	6
Branch ballot	19
Ballot at polling station	3
Postal ballot	18

(iii) What timetable? It is important to lay down a timetable for future contests. Not only is this desirable so that campaigns don't rumble on for six or more months, but it is also crucial in getting information to local members. One constituency reported that these branches which met early in the month decided their votes before the literature from candidates arrived.

(iv) Rigging the result: In view of the lack of good rules, some constituency parties behaved less than openly. One party member wrote to say that there was no mention of the leadership contest at her branch meeting until she raised the question.

Without clear ground rules the chances are that poorer members will be excluded. We know that the poor are less likely to attend meetings than other people, and in these, as in other circumstances, a postal vote is essential. Indeed, this was the view to which some members came after they had organized a branch ballot.

After completing our survey other parties told us that this too had extended the franchise to ordinary members. And already a number of parties which did not do so last time have decided to ballot all their members in any future contest. Most of the parties regard one person, one vote as a crucial part of making democratic decisions. This principle is now being firmly rooted in the electoral college. The NEC should issue guidelines to encourage its spread to all constituency parties and standardise the form of the election procedure.

David Cowling and Frank Field.

David Cowling is research assistant to Mr Peter Shore. Frank Field is Labour MP for Birkenhead.

The man who came up with a corker

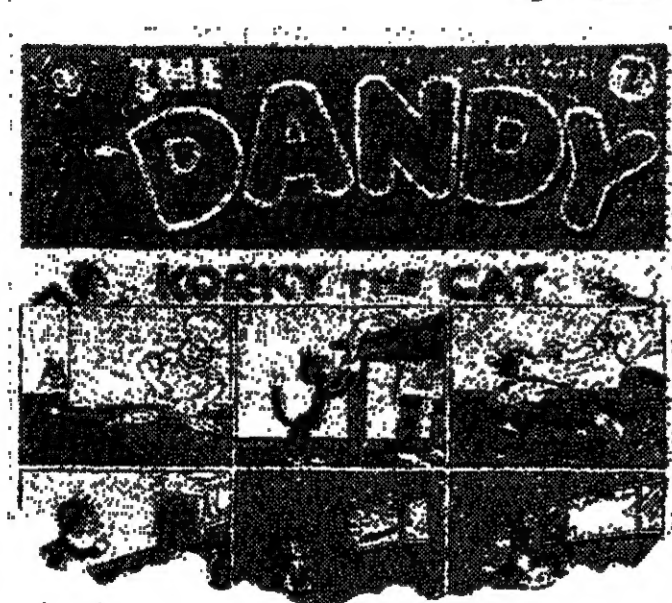
by Alan Hamilton

The man who gave the world *Desperate Dan* retires this week after 45 years in the editor's chair of what was once the world's largest selling children's comic.

Dan, the cowboy of superhuman strength and stupendous cactus who exists on a diet of cow pie with the horns and tail projecting through the pastry, was the creation of Albert Barnes, who edited the first issue of *The Dandy* on December 4, 1937, from that citadel of old-fashioned Presbyterian values, the Dundee publishing house of D. C. Thomson. Barnes has run the curiously unchanging *Dandy* ever since, except for a year of war service when the chair was occupied by his assistant, George Thomson, a young man of promise who eventually ascended, by way of the European Commission, to the chairmanship of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

"Desperate Dan was the roughest, toughest cowboy. He was to be the strongest man in the world; a man who could chew iron and spit rust. I told the artist to base him on me and give him a chin like a chest of drawers", Barnes recalls.

Thomson wanted a picture comic for children, aged six to 10, of equal appeal to boys and girls, to compete with their "famous five" clutch of children's story papers, *Wizard*, *Hotspur*, *Rover*, *Adventure* and *Skipper*. It was an innovation in the world of children's comics, and was followed some



Comic turns: left, the first issue of *The Dandy* in 1937, and right, the 1982 version. Can you tell the difference?

months later by an equally famous stablemate, *Beano*. Only *Desperate Dan* and *Korky the Cat* survive from the original cast of characters. Keyhole Kate and Hungry Horace are no more, and another early character, an unfortunately named youth called Invisible Dick, has disappeared. But the style has changed little: simple, identifiable characters tripping through banana skin and water pistol humour scoring points over parents, teachers and policemen. But no-one ever really gets hurt.

"There is never any real violence, only the cartoon kind to be found in *Tom and Jerry* where the victim always springs back unharmed", Barnes said. It gives children a chance to cock a snoot at authority, and sublimates their desires to kick against the traces. Sex, religion and politics are, of course, out altogether.

Well, more or less. Black Bob, the *Dandy* wonder dog, was recently kidnapped and taken to Argentina, adding fuel to the suspicion that, deep down, Argentines have always been regarded as stereotypical baddies. Authority has occasionally objected to the rubber bricks

thrown at it in the pages of *The Dandy*. The editor of a police magazine once protested that Korky the Cat was undermining respect for the forces of law and order, when he was shown saluting a policeman with a mouse emerging from a trapdoor in his helmet.

Dentists can be sensitive too. Barnes said "We do not deliberately show a dentist with a boot on a patient's chest. But I think it is legitimate to show a kid in some dread of going to the dentist. I think there is still room for fun. And of course it is good fun when you have

children's comic market. *The Dandy* is unlikely to see again its heyday of the early 1950s when it was selling 2.2 million copies a week. Thomson claims that no comic in the world, before or since, has equalled that circulation.

D. C. Thomson, whose flagship, the *Dundee Courier*, remains the only British daily newspaper with front page of small advertisements, are deeply secretive about circulation figures. That is known is that a quarter of the *Dandy* readership turns over each year.

Barnes's successor, Dandy chief sub-editor David Torrie, will hope for a regular supply of year-olds ready to enter the world of biffs, yikes and bargs, of Greedy Pigg and Screw Driver, where every sentence ends with an exclamation mark and the least hint of violence is a slipper on the backside.



Pensioners as pioneers

Some of the Falkland Islands' early settlers were Chelsea pensioners. A number of the kelper families now under Argentine military rule are descendants of a detachment of Chelsea pensioners sent to the Falklands by the War Office as garrison-colonists in 1849.

Most of the 30 married veterans chosen for the experiment were Chelsea out-pensioners. They were given prefabricated wooden houses, initial supplies of fuel and food and 10 acres of land. At first most of them hated it.

Yet when the opportunity was given a few years later to return to England, only a few did so. Some had become good gardeners and others found work in the growing ship-repairing industry. Age was on their side: most of the pensioners were in their early forties or younger and one, James Brown, pensioner and carpenter, was only 24.

Corned beef corner

It may prove difficult, in the two or three weeks it will take the naval task force to reach the Falklands, to keep up the spirit of jingoism and bellicosity which has swept the nation.

advertisement of its Maritime England promotion, perhaps feeling it makes too poignant a reminder of past naval greatness. On the other hand, pays to know your enemy and the Argentines do, from a safe distance, seem to be a rather loathsome lot. You will have read yesterday about the murderous Rivero, in whose honour Port Stanley is now renamed. He is, I know, not the Argentines' only folk hero with a distinctly doubtful past.

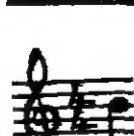
As contribution to the national, but I hope temporary was effort, PHS will continue to welcome items of information harmful to Argentina, and news of any ferocity laudable or laughable, here at home.

A plum of P.G.

Through his unjust disgrace in the war and his long years in exile, P.G. Wodehouse had one loyal fan — the Queen of England. Last night the Queen Mother paid a private and unannounced visit to the *World of Wodehouse* exhibition at the National Theatre, an attraction open freely to all who visit the building.

The Queen Mother is an avid reader of Wodehouse, and collects his books in her library in Scotland. She has almost all his tremendous output. In case Her Majesty should fancy a further treat, PHS recommends *Words by Wodehouse*, for which David Ryall does a hairless wig and does a plum of an impersonation. It is the early evening platform performance in the Olivier Theatre on April 14 and 21.

THE TIMES DIARY



The British Standards Institution has set a new standard for British music. This new standard is intended to encourage the production of music that is both of high quality and of high volume.

Maxwell Davies and Harrison Birtwistle. BS 4754 applies only to the way scores and parts are presented. Scores to British standard will

Chain of events

A complete glossary of health and hygiene — from Abatement notice to Zwitterion (an iron carrying both positive and negative charges, present in some detergents) — proves a rich midden of scatological information. Prepared by Mr Colin Lucas and published by Rentokil at £15, *Hygiene in Buildings* traces the history of the lavatory from the Knossos latrines, built for King Minos 3,500 years ago. Choice pickings include the Human Lavatory — a medieval public servant who walked the streets in an immense cape which he could use to cover his customers and the pail he was carrying; and the dreadful fate of Richard the Raker, a gonferrormer employed to clean latrines and cesspits who in 1326 fell through the "dreadful" stonework in his own excrement.

In a book full of villainous material, the few heroes include Thomas Crapper, who did the drains at Sandringham and possibly gave the language a new word; Thomas Twyford, who developed the Unifit and the ornate Deluge; and Sir John Harrington who required only "half a tunne of water to keep all sweete and savourie" and who wrote the *Metamorphosis of Ajax* devoted to his invention, the WC. For the squeamish there is also a good gathering of euphemisms, such as dinkum dummie, pizazz, nunny kiah, Les Vaters, cuzes, cozzies, jakes and Jericho, all of which mean much the same in one part of the world or another.

Haughtier cuisine

Culinary quaintness and rural-dethumps are out in Scotland this year, according to Colonel Pat Paterson who runs Taste of Scotland. Two new dishes created this year for inclusion in the brochure are Beef Nan Eilan — a mixture of lamb and beef with contrasting cream and

pickled walnut sauces — and garnish mouse with West Coast prawns. A haughtier cuisine, in any case, than Cullen skink and howdies.

Leaking boards

Very wet Wales, and Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru president, and MP for Caernarfon, may have discovered the reason. He complains that while British water boards generally waste about a quarter of the water, the Welsh Water Authority loses an average of a third, and in some places, a half.

The Government yesterday claimed all maps of the Falklands from Edward Stanford, the map-sellers in Long Acre, to help it handle the crisis. An official from the Directorate of Overseas Surveys called at the shop and hurried away with about 80 maps.

The memoir face

Joseph Gormley's autobiography, *Battered Cherub*, was appropriately written with the most modern aids to productivity. Like every good unionist Gormley had a mate on the job — ghost-writer Jeremy Hornsby, who previously worked with the disc jockey Pete Murray to produce *One Day I'll Forget My Trouser*, a volume most memorable for the cover photograph of its subject in underpants and suspenders. Gormley, finding himself a rich vein put some half a million words on 50 tape cassettes. Hornsby scribed over the noisy slack over four years with a word

processor, and his discs fuelled the computerized typesetting, making Gormley one of the first books on the general lists to be produced by the new technology.

Falling star

Residents of New Jersey take a dim view of the twilight of the stars. For its centenary the Actors Fund of America put on a television show and raised \$2m for the elderly residents of its retirement home, but now plans for a nursing home next to the residence have been scuttled. Actors Fund said it could fill its 50-bed nursing home at a fee of about \$100 a day, only about a third of what elderly actors have to pay locally at present if they fall sick.

The neighbours, who have been happy to have one of the past in their area for the last 20 years, objected to a twinkle. Mayor Sandra Greenberg said: "When I first heard of their plan for a residence I applauded it, but elderly and sickly stars from around the country would certainly impact adversely on this high-class neighbourhood."

Missing minutes

Four Oscars and Jewish praise for *Chariots of Fire* have been insufficient to restore 40 missing minutes to the film. It was out from a length of more than two hours for its cinema release at the insistence of Twentieth Century Fox, which shared the \$6m budget for the film with the offshoot of an Egyptian shipping company.

The producer, David Putnam,

having lost his battles with Fox's nervous attitude, was delighted to hear, when the RFE started negotiating the purchase of television rights, that it would be interested in an extended version, using discarded footage.

Despite Putnam's wholehearted support for the others, he is a bit of a cynic, saying that it would establish an unwelcome precedent. There is still cause to be grateful to Fox. The BBC was among those in Britain who approached him in the first place for *Chariots of Fire*, and another American studio rejected the project as "a real dweemer with no viability at all in the American marketplace because of style and tone as well as subject matter."

The eatable?

The Pet Food Manufacturers' Association announces that it will be the starting of offest from slaughterhouses, which, it says, would "make finished pet food products unacceptable to the pet owner". PHS would hope so too, but, horrors, the association goes on to say it has told the Government about "the important implications, such as the fact that the pet food industry would have to be able to supply the pet food industry with a high standard of quality."

Is the insurance business developing a conscience? A reader sends me a circular which says: "We are the main features of the Crusader's Revolutionary Anti-Guilt-Edged Plan."

PHS

Postal wa

From the Ch...
Office Users'...
Sir, In his c...
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the national...
March 15.

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WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

While British ships steam south through the Atlantic and the Argentines continue their efforts to fortify the islands there will be a great deal of diplomatic activity. Among other things, Britain and Argentina will be trying to rally support for their case. But it will also be a time to consider not only what should be done when the task force reaches the Falklands but also what Britain hopes to achieve thereafter.

The immediate objective is quite clear. It is to reverse the fait accompli imposed on the islands last Friday, and in the process to show General Galtieri that such naked acts of aggression are wholly unacceptable. That is of the greatest importance. There are small countries and territories in many parts of the world, not least in Latin America itself which would be at risk if it was felt that the generals in Buenos Aires had got away with this invasion. They chose to send troops against a small and defenceless people, the citizens of a country with which they had apparently friendly relations and with which they were holding negotiations for a peaceful settlement.

But once an Argentine withdrawal has been achieved, either through diplomacy or by force, that still leaves the question of the future of the Falklands. Do we want to maintain them indefinitely as a British possession, comparable to an Isle of Man 8,000 miles away, regardless of the

cost? Or do we take the view that in the long run they are too far away and too unimportant, and that they should therefore be based into some sort of congenial relationship with Argentina? The second course is the one which has been followed in recent years, by both Conservative and Labour governments. It led to a situation in which the islands were very much dependent on the good will of Argentina, even before last Friday's attack. Apart from a ship which sailed from Tilbury four times a year, the only regular communications with the outside world were the weekly flights to and from Comodoro Rivadavia provided by the Argentine Air Force.

That was not a bad policy in itself. Admittedly it had the disadvantage of giving General Galtieri and his colleagues the impression that the British government was anxious to be rid of the Falklands, which may have encouraged them to miscalculate. But the miscalculation was not an inevitable result of the policy. If the British government had shown at an earlier stage that it was determined to defend the islands there could still have been progress.

Much will now depend on the circumstances in which, if all goes well, the Argentines are induced to depart. If they have been humiliated, they will remain uncooperative for some time. Britain will then have to maintain an active defence of the islands against

a possible new attempt at invasion, and also replace the services which were provided by Argentina before the invasion. It can be done. But it would have to be done. But it would be an expensive commitment to maintain over a long period.

At some point, therefore, it will be necessary to try to restore links between the islands and Argentina. This will not be easy, especially if there has been fighting. Obviously diplomatic relations would have to be restored first. But it would not be the first time in history that a showdown, whether diplomatic or military, had clarified a relationship and in the period of reconstruction provided a more realistic basis for negotiation. At all times, however, we would have to face up to the possibility that such attempts would be unsuccessful. Our future policy for the Falklands can never again be allowed to depend on an Argentine veto.

It is not too early to look ahead in this way, even though the immediate future is murky. Britain did not seek or provoke a conflict with Argentina and has no wish for a long period of hostility. It must assert its rights and the principles of international law without compromise but at the same time it should make clear its desire to return as soon as possible to normal relations with Argentina. This can be achieved only if the Argentines have the same aim. The burden of proof now lies with them.

WHO'S AFRAID OF A BIG BAD BALLOT?

Of all the days of the year to select to beat the drum for a national campaign which has been slow to catch fire, Monday must have been among the most unlucky. With the fleet sailing off to glory and ministers tumbling, the country had little attention to spare for the metaphorical militancy on display at the TUC's special conference on the Employment Bill. "There will be risks, there may be casualties, we may get knocked, but we will give as good as we get," declared Mr Murray with native caution setting his sights before battle rather than Mrs Thatcher was doing elsewhere.

The programme of action against the Bill, agreed with acclaim by all but a few of the unions represented, is also anything but bloodthirsty. The TUC General Council drafted it with concern not to encourage the movement's aircraft carriers to steer outside the territorial waters of legality. This showed good sense, but can have done little to persuade ordinary trade unionists with more urgent anxieties about the security of their jobs that the proposed reforms seriously amount to "a manifesto for a union-free society", as Mr Murray put it. He rejected a policy of using industrial action to bring a government down undemocratically. Other speakers, like Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr Joe Wade disregarded his lead and spoke unthinkingly about the possibility of breaking the law in the struggle against the Bill. Major campaigns of industrial action against it, as

advocated by a number of delegates, would be illegal within the terms of the Bill itself, even if not of the existing laws on political strikes and secondary action. The Bill is deftly drafted to minimise the need for active union co-operation: it will exist and influence their calculations and actions whether they like it or not, and even if employers prove reluctant, as they often may, to go to court on the strength of its provisions.

The prevailing atmosphere made Mr Murray sound pallid, and the voices which urged the dangers of a long and costly campaign embarked on without strong rank and file support were few and faint. One of the most revealing phrases of the day came when Mr Murray described the Bill as an attempt to drive a wedge between unions and their members. Some of its provisions, in particular those designed to encourage unions to test by ballot whether existing closed shops still command support among members, can indeed claim to be so. But a rift has been driven into it, and the unpopularity of the closed shop, as well as of other equally rough and ready means of imposing union discipline, is widespread inside the movement as well as out. It is a standing reproach to the trade unions that the abandonment of such practices should need to wait for a nudge from legislation.

The truth is that the Bill is

modest in its scope and its likely effects. While this hampers the campaign to present it as a threat to trade unionism as such, it also means that many reforms which would still further improve accountability have been omitted. Only last week, Mr Norman Tebbit said that his mind was not fully closed to the possibility of adding a clause to encourage the use of strike ballots in place of the factory-gate votes which are so easily manipulated. Balloting for union elections is a reform whose effects might be even more profound. Even where it does occur, balloting today is too often inadequately supervised. In the short term, legislation on these matters might tend to add them to the category of things that trade unionists refuse to see any good in because Mr Tebbit favours them. It might also increase the scope for calculated defiance and the creation of martyrs; but nothing would do more to make the movement more truly representative. The longer term, advantages would thus be manifest. If the trade union leadership wants to claim that it truly represents its members, it would be more convincing if it did not object to measures which would provide evidence for that claim. Of course they would not like it, but that is the evidence which would undermine their claim, and thus their leadership. Let us have the evidence by introducing much more provision for balloting, both about strikes, and about leadership.

Postal watchdog

From the Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council
Sir, In his observations on the Government's consultative document on consumers' interest and the nationalised industries (article, March 15), Mr Alex Henney, Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council, bemoans the absence of any proposals to give arbitration powers on the nationalised industry consumer councils.

It is arguable whether the duty of arbitration is one which is proper to a consumer council. I think it is not. The council acts principally as an advocate of the consumer's case. It could not easily act as arbiter as well. Customers would be entitled to question the extent of the commitment to representing their interests.

The issue does not however arise for users of Post Office and British Telecom services. Under the Codes of Practice for Postal and Telecommunications Services published in 1979, customers may pursue unresolved claims for redress through a scheme of arbitration operated independently by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Whilst the arbitrator's recommendations were not legally binding, both parties normally be honour bound to accept them.

This offers customers seeking redress a cheap and simple way of resolving disputes avoiding the need to make a personal appearance at a court. We are about to start discussions with British Telecom aimed at similar arrangements in respect of their legal liabilities under the ECT Act.

We consider these arbitration facilities are an important feature of the machinery for dealing with customers' complaints and are pleased to have had some part in establishing them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORGAN, Chairman,
Post Office Users' National Council,
Waterloo Bridge House,
Waterloo Road, SE1.

Ecosystems

From Professor C. D. Pigott
Sir, Your correspondent Dr A. S. Thomas (March 17) in his strongly worded criticism of the term ecosystem shows that he does not understand its meaning. Perhaps he has forgotten, or perhaps never read, the article written by Sir Arthur Tansley in 1935 in which the word was introduced and defined with admirable clarity.

Tansley proposed the word to describe a particular level of organization of natural systems in which vegetation, animals and the physical environment are linked together by the transfer of energy and materials. Tansley recognized the difficulty of defining the boundaries of ecosystems for, in a sense, the world is an ecosystem, but he proposed that the term was more usefully applied to those much smaller systems in which net transfer of material across the boundaries is minimal.

For example, in an unexploited woodland the amount of carbon dioxide fixed by green plants may, over a period of a year, be balanced by the amount released by respiration of all the organisms in the woodland, so that net transfer in and out of the system is zero. Of course, the gas in the atmosphere means that most ecosystems share a common reservoir.

Uptake of phosphate by the plants of the woodland may be almost entirely from the supply provided by decay, so that in this case the system may be virtually self-contained. Animals may indeed move in and out of the woodland yet their population averaged over a number of years may remain more or less constant. Ecosystems are not entirely self-contained, or "closed", and never could be because all depend on an input of solar energy and the eventual dissipation of this energy as heat.

By repeatedly using the word "may" I am, in fact, drawing attention to the value of recognizing ecosystems. By analysis of their structure and by measurement of the amounts of substances in their parts and of the rates of transfer the extent to which the system is in balance can be discovered. This provides essential information for the sensible exploitation of ecosystems, allowing their structure to be stabilized and their productivity maintained or even increased. An ecosystem is still an ecosystem even when it is not in equilibrium.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD PIGOTT,
Department of Biological Sciences,
The University,
Lancaster,
March 25.

Glue-sniffing and solvent abuse

From Mr N. C. MacDonald
Sir, Mr Allan Roberts, MP (Conservative, April 1) is following a path trodden by well-known politicians in this country and overseas, in believing that the use of aversive additives in solvent-based products will eliminate or control solvent abuse.

To be acceptable any additive must meet three criteria. It should not enhance in any way the health risk of the preparation to which it is added. It should not interfere with the acceptability of a preparation by those who will use it. It should not detract from the preparation for its intended purpose. Finally, any additive should not detract from service performance of the preparation, and in this case we mean the adhesive strength.

My company has investigated the possible use of aversive additives, and volatile organic chemicals with characteristic nauseating odours are most commonly thought of in this connection; allyl isothiocyanate, which occurs naturally as a component of oil of mustard, has been used in adhesives in certain parts of the United States.

All evidence indicates that substances of this type are either ineffective at safe levels of use or have only a transient aversive effect at higher or more dangerous concentrations, as well as interfering with the normal use and performance of the adhesive to which they are added. In West Germany another type of so-called aversive agent was added to a solvent-based product as a panic reaction to an outbreak of solvent abuse in West Berlin. The result was an increase in the incidence of toxicity amongst sniffers.

To suggest, as Mr Roberts does, that there is a paucity of information on the subject is to misrepresent the facts. My company's research has revealed around 300 references from many authoritative sources in this country and others.

At the same time we in the industry continue our search to develop alternative systems which are intrinsically safer from abuse and I would stress that this positive approach to the problem has been receiving attention in my company for several years. I should be greatly disturbed were we to tackle the symptoms of the malaise in a less than rational way, whilst ignoring the disease itself.

Yours sincerely,
N. C. MACDONALD,
Director (Technical),
Evolve Limited,
Common Road,
Stafford,
April 2.

Freedom of the media

From Mr Jacob Ecclestone
Sir, You will, I hope, allow me to reply to the letter (April 3) from Mr Farmer, General Secretary of the Independent Press, concerning my refusal to admit your correspondent to cover our recent annual conference.

As a matter of policy my union asks other trade unions to admit only NUJ members to cover their meetings. We do so because the NUJ is a trade union in all senses of the word. The IOJ is not affiliated to either the TUC or the International Federation of Journalists and can make no such claim. It would, therefore, be absurdly inconsistent if we were to admit a member of the IOJ to report on our annual delegate meeting.

For Mr Farmer to assert that the leadership of the NUJ would use the closed shop in journalism "to silence opposition in the media" is ludicrous. As he knows perfectly well, my union's own journal is so independent of the NUJ leadership that it frequently makes life uncomfortable and embarrassing for us by exercising the right of free speech that such independence guarantees — an independence that recent events have shown is not enjoyed by many editors in Fleet Street.

That is only our domestic situation. The NUJ operates many closed shops in national newspapers, and in none of them could Mr Farmer find evidence to substantiate his allegations.

Yours ever,
JACOB ECCLESTONE,
Deputy General Secretary,
National Union of Journalists,
41, Abchurch Lane,
314-320 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
April 5.

One nation

From Dr C. Goodson-Wickes
Sir, What better way is there to forge the One Nation that you seek (leading article, March 30), than to reintroduce a form of national service?

Cooperation between white and black citizens in such a framework would surely go far to promote new and healthier attitudes at an impressionable age.

Yours faithfully,
C. GOODSON-WICKES,
35A Jermyn Street,
St James's, SW1.

Ulster assembly plan

From Mr Tom Arnold, MP for Hazel Grove (Conservative)

Sir, The Prime Minister has made it clear on a number of occasions that Northern Ireland will remain a part of the United Kingdom for as long as that is the wish of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland. The guarantee is firm and should not be in doubt.

There is no immediate contradiction, therefore, between the Union and the preferred wish of the main Northern Ireland political parties to move in the direction of devolution.

The fact is that Northern

Government failings in Falklands crisis

From General Sir Robert Ford (ret'd)
Sir, Looked at from the outside, Sir, with some knowledge and experience of the workings of the machinery of government over a long period, it is difficult to come to any other conclusion than that the present tragedy in the Falkland Islands is largely the result of gross crisis mismanagement.

The well-cried and established Defence and Overseas Policy Committee has been modified since the war to meet changing conditions. Chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Home Secretary, and with all the Chiefs of Staff in attendance, this committee used to meet under most governments on a monthly basis with prepared papers, receiving the world intelligence picture as seen by the Joint Intelligence Committee and with ministers together having the opportunity to listen to the professional assessments and advice of the Chiefs of Staff before they made their political decisions.

As a staff officer in the Military Operations Branch of the then War Office who was seconded to the Cabinet Secretariat for the Suez operation I saw at first hand the disasters which followed when this element of the machinery of government was not strictly adhered to.

Since that day I have served four Chiefs of Defence Staff over a number of years and before my retirement was a member of the Army Board. Throughout this period the DOPC system has been steadily eroded by successive Prime Ministers and governments, with some exceptions. The result has been that the fully considered professional advice of the Chiefs of Staff, in the knowledge of the latest intelligence assessments, has not been

available to ministers at the right moment and, indeed, it has seemed to me that the very status of the Chiefs of Staff has been steadily and deliberately reduced.

This was sometimes, I fear, for political and economic reasons and one also received the impression that certain senior civil servants and Foreign Office officials wished this to be so. A few months ago, when I questioned a senior civil servant on this matter, he defended the changes which had taken place on the grounds that capabilities and commitments were almost entirely devoted to Nato and since our colonial commitments and others had virtually disappeared there was no requirement now for the Prime Minister and senior ministers of the DOPC to have regular personal advice from the Chiefs of Staff.

I have a high regard for my late senior Civil Service colleagues, but they are not qualified to give military advice. Nor is any Secretary of State for Defence qualified to put forward military judgment to the Cabinet subcommittee without the attendance of the professional heads of the Armed Services. Of course, civil servants can properly inform ministers of the financial and budgetary implications and options but the machinery of government should always allow the Chiefs of Staff to be considered views to be available to this vital committee on a regular basis.

I sincerely hope that a lesson has been learnt and that in future our foreign and defence policy will be regularly discussed in the proper forum, with each member having an opportunity to make his input before decisions are made.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT FORD,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1,
April 4.

Labour and deterrence

From Mr J. R. V. Coutts
Sir, Michael Foot stated quite clearly that we are right to defend the Falkland Islands citizens against the aggression of the Argentines. Yet the whole of the Government's argument for the deployment of the Trident missile system is that we should be in a position to deter a would-be aggressor.

It does not require much imagination to visualise a situation in which England, deprived of any form of nuclear deterrent, could be blackmailed and occupied by a foreign Power. This situation could only be hastened if Michael Foot's "unilateral disarmament" policies were carried out.

It would seem to be the height of hypocrisy for him and other members of the Labour Party to attack this Government's lack of readiness in terms of dealing with the Falkland Islands situation, and yet propagate policies which would virtually mean 50 million British people would be left in a defenceless situation.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. V. COUTTS,
Moatfield House,
Vicarage Lane, Waresley,
Sandy, Bedfordshire,
April 5.

From Mr P. J. Freeman
Sir, The situation arising from the occupation by Argentinian forces of the Falkland Islands is rich in irony from the naval standpoint. In the first place, both HM ships *Endurance* and *Invisible*, which are playing central, if very different, roles in the dispute, are on the disposal list. Secondly, Argentina, of all countries, was hoping to purchase HMS *Intrepid*, one of the amphibious assault ships understood to be involved, until a recent last-minute decision by the Secretary of State for Defence to retain her in service. Finally, of the units of the Argentinean navy, its aircraft carrier is the former HMS *Venerable* and its two newest and largest destroyers are sister ships of the type-42 vessels in service with the Royal Navy.

Irony notwithstanding, there is a very serious lesson to be learnt for British naval policy from this unhappy episode. This is that while the Royal Navy may still retain the capability to dispatch substantial forces to the Falkland Islands, and to maintain them at sea, this is only because the Secretary of State's cuts in the Royal Navy have not yet taken full effect.

The capability under present plans, will be substantially eroded over the coming years. The Secretary of State's statement in the historic debate in the House of Commons on April 3, that we will continue to maintain a "substantial" out-of-area capability rings very hollow when it is recalled that this capability even now involves the use of only two active aircraft carriers and the detachment from Nato commitments of a very large proportion of the fleet.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FREEMAN,
13A Richmond Mansions,
250 Old Brompton Road, SW5.

From Mrs Rosemary Goring
Sir, Now that the Falkland Islanders are, for the time being at least, under Argentine rule they will presumably have to start learning the Argentine national anthem. This is a stirring composition, with a revolutionary flavour not unlike that of the Marseillaise, and the first four lines run more or less as follows:

O mortals, hear the sacred cry,
Liberty, liberty, liberty!
Hear the sound of breaking chains,
And see, enthroned, Equality.

One imagines that the Islanders will render these lines with more than ordinary fervour.

Yours,
ROSEMARY GORING,
Little Wood,
Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, Sussex,
April 3.

From Sir Maxwell Joseph
Sir, The Government has succeeded in turning a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta into a Wagnerian tragedy.

Yours faithfully,
MAX JOSEPH,
1 York Gate,
Regents Park, NW1.

Plans for church unity move

From Lord Fletcher
Sir, My friend the Bishop of Norwich (April 3) does less than justice to the final report of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission. His purported quotation from page 84 of the report is misleading as it stands. The words in brackets do not appear in the report. The Bishop informs me that they were intended to be printed as an interpolation of his own.

It would be unfortunate if progress towards reunion were felt to depend on the precise significance to be given in a united Christendom to the primacy of the Bishop of Rome. Any form of organic unity may be a distant project, but the report registers the impressive progress made on a wide range of issues hitherto considered controversial. It emphasizes, on page 5, the bonds that unite our two churches:

We confess the same faith in the one true God; we have received the same spirit; we have been baptized with the same baptism; and we preach the same Gospel.

One hopes that, with the forthcoming papal visit, the momentum already established will not be lost. An initiative for a tangible step forward might well be a study of the case for a mutual reconciliation of ministries.

Yours faithfully,
FLETCHER,
House of Lords,
April 5.

Channel link

From the Director General, General Council of British Shipping
Sir, If the Government stick to their announced policy and insist that the UK half of any Channel tunnel or bridge is financed by private enterprise the shipping industry can have no possible objection. We do not fear commercial competition. What we do fear is a tunnel or bridge started on a "private enterprise" basis. The UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which changes to the same thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

When the ferries and hovercraft can carry all increases in traffic, passengers and freight, the UK half of the project gets into difficulty and costs and time-scale escalate, as by all precedent they will, the Government of the day, whatever that may be, feeling impelled to subsidise the project or support a British Rail guarantee of throughput (which changes to the same thing as subsidy), particularly if the French are determined to press on.

The ferries have never been completely stopped on any day since World War II, whereas a tunnel or a bridge could be blocked by weather or engineering mishap or industrial action or sabotage. Better not start. Remember Concorde.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SHOVELTON,
General Council of British Shipping,
30-32 St Mary Axe, EC3,
April 2.

Earlier bird

From the Reverend Canon E. F. Hudson
Sir, Reviewing Steven Runciman's *Sicilian Vespers* in today's Times (April 1) Philip Howard writes: "Cambridge today publishes the first paperback edition of Steven Runciman's famous book. But a paperback copy has been in my study for more than 20 years. Published as a Pelican by Penguin Books in 1960, it then cost 6s 1d it is worth its present price, £8.95."

I can't think that Mr Howard, or I, has been influenced by today's date. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
E. F. HUDSON,
The Rectory,
Ingatstone,
Evesham,
April 1.

A goodly usage

From Mr Bernard Cox
Sir, Mrs Tullio (April 3) complains of the newspaper coming off on her hands. For many years I used old copies of *The Times* for pressing my trousers (no damping was required). However, I had to stop this habit of a lifetime when my wife showed that the ink was transferring from paper to iron and then on to my white shirt.

Perhaps one has to use properly matured copies for this purpose. Any evidence on the proper length of maturity would be welcome.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD COX,
89 Kingsfield Avenue,
North Harrow,
Middlesex,
April 3.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL

SWEDEN
Workers
win
a say

The Swedish employers association, the Swedish Labour Federation and white-collar unions have reached an agreement to give about 1.5 million workers in private industry a greater say in the running of their companies.

The employees will also have a voice in the adoption of new technology, organization of work plans and economic decisions.

However, the so-called co-determination committees will not have any veto over employer's right to hire and fire, as unions demanded some years ago.

JAPAN

Japanese car registrations hit an all-time monthly high in March, going up 6.5 per cent from a year before to a total of 529,950.

Japan does not intend to reduce its self-imposed ceiling on car exports to Canada this year, Mr. Shintaro Abe, the International Trade and Industry Minister, announced yesterday. He said he would recommend that exports be kept to the 1981 level.

AUSTRALIA

Employment in Australia fell in February, reversing the previous 12 months' trend, according to estimates issued by the Statistics Bureau. The bureau said civilian employment (seasonally adjusted) fell to 6,412,800 in February, down 5,000 or 0.1 per cent from January. In February last year, employment had increased by 23,100 or 0.4 per cent.

Despite the fall from January, employment in the latest month remained at 76,600 or 1.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Mr. Nils Asling, Swedish Industry Minister, who is touring Western Australia's mining operation areas, urged Australian companies to invest in Sweden to force their way into the European market.

UNITED STATES

International coal shipments will more than double in the 1980s — from 192 million tonnes in 1980 to 425 million tonnes by 1990, according to National Economic Research Associates, an American firm of consulting economists. It predicted that coal imports by Europe will rise 1 per cent a year above the general rate of inflation between 1985 and 1990.

WEST GERMANY

West German crude steel production totalled 3.88 million metric tons in March, up 11.3 per cent from February. Pig iron output rose 12.1 per cent to 3.82 million tonnes.

West German crude steel production rose 3.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1982 over the same quarter of 1981. The same year-on-year increase was also seen in the regional statistics office said in Düsseldorf.

The West German manufacturing industry index of incoming orders fell by a provisional 1.3 per cent seasonally adjusted in February, after being unchanged in January.

FRANCE

ETPM, a subsidiary of the French Vallourec steel pipe group, has been awarded a contract worth \$30m (£51m) by the Norwegian state oil company Statoil to lay a pipeline in the North Sea. It is one of the biggest orders of its type.

BELGIUM

Belgium unemployment at the end of March remained at a record high of 10.9 per cent. The only big change was a decline of 2,000 in the number of young jobless.

The trade deficit of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union widened sharply in January to a provisional Bel Fr 30,800m from Bel Fr 1,800m in December. The national institute of statistics reported in Brussels, January marked a worsening of the economic union's trading position, which had improved in the end of last year after a record deficit of Bel Fr 51,600m was recorded in August.

UGANDA

Uganda will request the potential donors at a World Bank meeting in Paris on May 17 for help in its \$600m (about £37m) recovery plan. "We are telling the international community 'help us now. If you do, in two years we will be on the other side of the counter,'" Mr. Ephraim Kumuuru, acting finance minister, said in Kampala yesterday.

Frances Williams assesses our competitiveness

The international
race Britain
cannot win

Last year witnessed a rare if not unique event in recent British economic history. We managed, in a small way, to improve our international competitive position by dint of our own domestic labours, instead of relying entirely as in the past on the depreciation of sterling to keep British goods in the running on world markets.

In 1981 lower pay settlements and a surge in productivity produced a rise in wage costs per unit of output of only 2 1/2 per cent. Britain's performance since the mid-1960s when wage costs with a rise of 2.5 per cent in the year to mid-1980. By contrast, the latest international comparisons show unit wage costs rising at a yearly rate of 3 per cent in Japan, 4 per cent in Germany, 11 per cent in the United States and 14 per cent in France.

The result will have been to boost British competitiveness by perhaps 2 per cent or so, in addition to the gain from a 10 per cent drop in sterling over the year, enabling us to claw back perhaps a quarter of the 50 per cent loss of competitiveness suffered during 1979 and 1980.

Government ministers are losing no opportunity to reiterate their message that continued low pay settlements and greater productivity are essential if workers are to price themselves into jobs in international markets.

Will that message be heard? And even if it is, will Britain reap the benefits? On wages, the signals are unambiguous. In the 1981-82 wage round are averaging about 7 per cent in manufacturing, the most internationally exposed sector of the economy.

The index of competitiveness used measures the rise in labour costs per unit of output in this country compared with our competitors, expressed in a common currency.

This is just 1 to 2 per cent below settlement rates in the previous pay round, despite steadily climbing unemployment and continued depressed output.

The majority of economic forecasters believe that the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of about 8-10 per cent. This would have earnings growing at 10 to 12 per cent over the year.

The forecasters point out that industrial output is

expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982, with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

All these factors are likely to encourage workers to press for higher pay to compensate for the drop in living standards over the past year or so.

Information collected by Incomes Data Services, a private company which monitors pay, reveals that a few companies, in better financial shape than last year, have agreed to somewhat higher pay deals this time around.

Though companies may be disinclined to be generous on wages, the higher profits expected to pick up quite sharply later this year; that unemployment is likely to stabilize or rise very slowly; and that redundancy, and that company profits are predicted to increase rapidly, by anything between 20 and 30 per cent in 1982, with similar improvements in the running on world markets.

Most economic forecasters believe the next pay round will see a higher level of settlements, perhaps of round 9 to 10 per cent.

will not be enough to finance stockpiling and more investment, let alone high pay settlements — they may find it hard to resist workers' claims for some modest realisation. If economic recovery persists in subsequent years, the pressures on pay are certain to grow stronger.

The Government, not surprisingly, is taking a more optimistic line. Treasury economists, who expect that last year's impressive performance can be repeated. In 1981, output per person in manufacturing rose by more than 10 per cent and output per person-hour by over 8 per cent to surpass the peak levels reached before the recession began in the spring of 1979.

This is a bigger rise than experience of past recessions would have suggested and it

began unusually in the cycle, when output was still falling. This, plus anecdotal evidence about new attitudes and working practices on the shop floor, has produced talk of a productivity "miracle" — the suggestion that the long-run trend of productivity has shifted upwards from the sluggish 1 1/2 per cent or so seen for much of the 1970s.

Others take the view that recent rapid productivity growth is temporary, and unlikely to be sustainable. They argue that the figures have been boosted artificially by closure or mothballing of less productive capacity to give a once-and-for-all productivity boost. And they point out that in past recessions labour "shaken out" has been "shaken in" again once recovery is underway, dampening previous productivity growth.

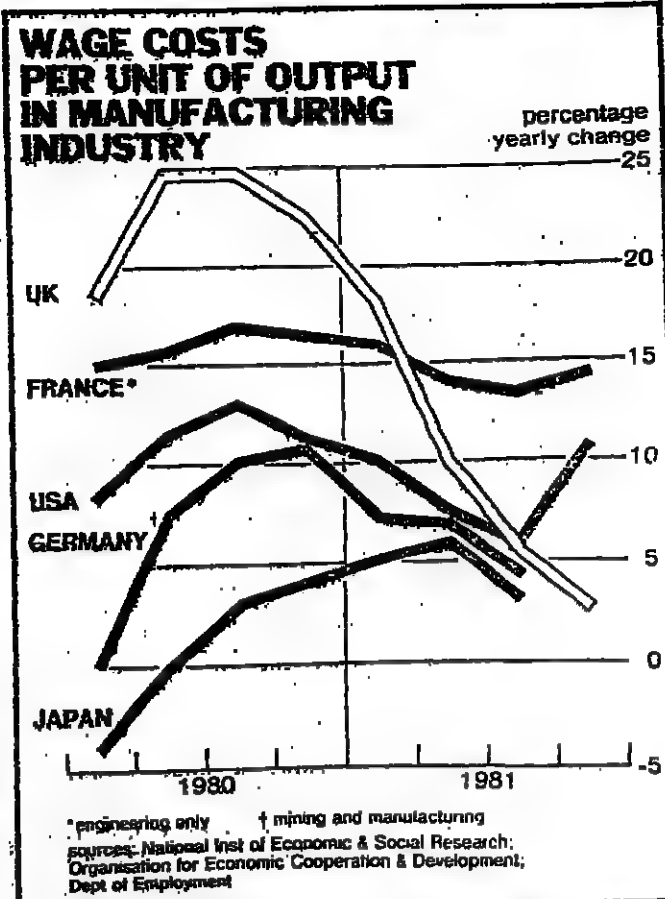
The Treasury counters this by arguing that continuing competitive pressures, and companies' expectations "of only moderate economic recovery", will keep up the pressure to hold costs down and by implication to be cautious about recruiting labour.

We shall not know who is right until output recovers in earnest. But no one is suggesting that last year's productivity gains can be repeated. Over the next few months as job losses continue while output picks up, productivity is likely to go on rising, though at a lower pace. But in the longer term even believers in miracles cannot expect sustained productivity growth above average levels between 3 and 4 per cent a year.

This alone would be twice as good as Britain's performance over the past few years. Another problem area is the scene abroad. Britain can only improve her competitive position without recourse to devaluation if her unit labour costs are rising more slowly than those of international rivals.

Last year she may have succeeded. But there are signs that in other countries too the rise in labour costs may be slowing down.

Over the past year or so recession, as in Britain, has tended to inhibit the growth in earnings. (France, which is trying to reflate its economy, is a clear exception.) But recession has also slowed the growth of productivity, reflecting the usual pattern in which productivity falls and rises with output. The reason is that output is normally cut more quickly than jobs.



HOW WE COMPARED WITH FOREIGN COMPETITORS, 1975-81

% change	UK	US	Japan	France	Germany
Unit wage costs 1975-1980	89	38	0	45	17
Latest quarter 1980-81	2.8	10.8	2.9	14.4	4.2
Output per person-hour 1975-80	7	15	42	31	16
Latest quarter 1980-81	8.3	4.4	4.3	-4.6	3.5

The increase in unit labour costs elsewhere has thus not been as dramatic as in Britain. But economic recovery, which will be boosted by the recent drop in oil prices, means that productivity is beginning to improve in most countries. Even if it only gets back on trend — and it should do better than that in the early stages of recovery — this would mean productivity growth of 7 1/2 per cent a year in the United States, 3 per cent in West Germany, 4 per cent in France and 7 1/2 per cent in Japan.

All this serves to demonstrate how fast Britain has run to stand still in the international race for competitiveness. If our main trading partners, with their better productivity records and, on the whole, historically lower pay settlements, succeed in reducing growth in unit labour costs over the coming year Britain's modest advantage gained so painfully over recent months will quickly disappear.

There is no alternative to some further depreciation of sterling if the Government wishes to improve significantly the competitiveness of British industry. This does not mean that containing unit labour costs is unimportant. It reduces the need for devaluation and dampens its inflationary impact.

But the Government should not pretend to British workers that the achievement of greater competitiveness lies in their hands alone. To do so could prove a recipe for disappointment and recalcitrance.

Airing grievances, dispelling rumours

AT WORK:
INDUSTRIAL
DEMOCRACY

By Rupert Morris

Enthusiasm for worker participation — or industrial democracy, if you prefer — has been a sporadic phenomenon since the Bullock Report sank amid widespread recriminations in 1977. The Post Office's decision to scrap its worker-director scheme two years ago was a further setback.

Old-fashioned management and trade unions suspicious of schemes that smelt of collaboration have combined to prevent isolated initiatives leading to any general move towards greater employee involvement.

Among the isolated successes have been profit-sharing schemes like the one operated by British Petroleum, which claims a 60 per cent response to its offer of two shares for the price of one to any employee with more than four years' service. But other large firms, such as GEC, are opposed to such schemes, arguing that it is virtually impossible to relate individual employee performance to the company's share value and that consequently employee shareholding schemes provide no real productivity incentive.

At a more modest level however, there is a form of worker participation which has grown out of Bullock and been adopted by a sprinkling of medium-sized firms with some success. It is the company council.

Proprietary Perfumes (PPL) of Ashford, Kent, a subsidiary of Unilever, introduced such a company council in 1976. There was no pressure for trade union recognition, and industrial relations were calm. They have remained so ever since and Mr. Geoffrey Roberts, PPL chairman, has been able to spread the word about company councils to his occasionally envious colleagues on the CBI Kent Committee, of which he is this year's chairman.

It is probably impossible to know how much of the good



Talking it over — the company council at Proprietary Perfumes

relations that seem to reign at PPL are attributable to the existence of the company council. But PPL is indisputably a successful and growing company — its turnover last year was £57m which has never had any work stoppage among its 500 employees.

The council's constitution, which runs to six foolscap pages, deals at length with consultation. But it rapidly becomes clear that the prime object is communication. PPL's work force has shown little inclination to take an active part in management policy making.

Mr. Roberts said: "We needed to make sure that people felt involved in what was happening at all grades, both management and non-management. It's like a family, where you know that if you stop talking to each other you are in trouble."

The employees take it very seriously. Their representatives are elected from the various divisions — perfumery, works, research and development, commercial and marketing — to serve on the council for two years. The level of voting is high, with 85 per cent taking part. Candidates and their supporters make posters and rosettes which clutter the factory at election time.

The eight-strong council meets every five months, with monthly meetings of divisional committees (also elected), being held. The council, in accordance with the constitution, can discuss

budgets, balance sheets, investment trends, sales, marketing and manpower.

In spite of all the democratic paraphernalia, however, it is an essentially paternalistic system. Mr. Roberts did not like that particular word but admitted that the degree of consultation depended entirely on how much he, as chairman of the company and of the council, was prepared to divulge.

Conversations with Mr. Roberts and three other members of the council did not reveal many major developments which had been inspired by the council, apart from the establishment of a dental centre on site, canteen facilities, car parks, rest rooms and other practical matters were among the most common items for discussion.

Major policy decisions are often presented to the council as fait accompli. "But at least we'll know why," said Andrew Attfield, the company accountant and a council member.

"I think the chairman would be a fool to tell us the whole truth all the time," said John Church, council member for the compounding division.

Mr. Church said the council's existence did not stop the management taking occasional wrong decisions, which could, with consultation, have been avoided. The installation of a particular machine in his department had been a case in

point, he said. But council members agreed that though it had its faults, the council did provide a forum for the airing of grievances, and the dispelling of rumours and for general discussion which made an important contribution to morale.

Next month PPL will be integrated with the Flavours and Fragrances division of its parent company. The council will continue to operate at the Ashford site.

Surveys of company councils and other forms of industrial democracy have been unable to show any clear trends. The British Institute of Management, for instance, produced a survey last year in which 93 per cent of responding firms claimed to have established, or to be establishing, worker participation.

The CBI though produced a more comprehensive report on 413 companies which employed a total of more than three million people. This report showed that only 17 per cent of company chairmen chaired company or works councils and only 17 per cent of firms with such councils had established them in the last three years — indicating a slow rate of change.

But last month, in the week after Sir Raymond Pennock, CBI President, argued in the columns of *The Times* for more positive moves to involve workers, the Confederation was taking a rather more optimistic view. This optimism was

based on an independent survey of the employees of the same 413 companies which showed more than half the workforce felt their managements had become less secretive and more inclined to consultation. Only 29 per cent said there had been no improvement.

THE NEW THROGMORTON TRUST PLC.
Capital Loan Stock Valuation
6th April 1982
The Net Asset Value per £1 of Capital Loan Stock is 290.88p calculated on Formula 1.
Securities valued at middle market prices

Base Lending Rates

ARN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000 are 11.75%, £10,000 up to £50,000 12%, £50,000 and over 12 1/2%.

Business Editor

The pressure
stays on

For those who have been advocating a lower exchange rate, sterling below £1.75 and heading fast for DM4.20 may seem like a reasonable start. But even if they were happy with a small devaluation, the authorities doubt that better supply lines are inclined to see silver linings on the present foreign exchange clouds.

Indeed, the far more pressing thought must be how to arrest a much more serious run on the pound should it show signs of developing in the days and weeks ahead. Money market rates have been relatively slow to respond — largely thanks to a generous supply of liquidity from the Bank — though period rates were notably firmer yesterday and bill dealing rates clearly reflected nervousness on the part of the houses given that the forecast shortage was no more than £50m. Presumably, the Bank will want to hold off taking interest rate action as long as possible. But if it chooses to play it that way, then action when it does come will almost certainly have to be of the crisis rather than the tinkering variety.

Ironically, yesterday's preliminary estimate of a March money supply (sterling M3) rise of only 1 per cent was better than generally expected.

Although domestic money supply developments are hardly likely to be a major factor in foreign exchange market thinking at the moment, the figures are in any case not necessarily as good as they look.

Without the benefit of the collection of a further £1,000m of back tax, sterling M3 might well have grown by closer to 1 per cent.

Bank lending to the private sector is once again the villain of the piece, probably rising by at least £2,000m. The London Clearers estimate the underlying increase in lending at £1,600m. But that will represent some movement by borrowers out of overdrafts; and the Bank's own massive purchases of commercial bills may be offset by a large fall in discount house balance sheets and non-bank holdings of bills.

Hammerson

Tidying up

The wish to tidy up the portfolio is the excuse given by Hammerson Property and Investment Trust chairman Mr. Sydney Mason for asking shareholders to dig into their pockets for £70.5m. The bulk (£55.9m) of cash from the 3 for 10 rights issue is being used to buy out minority interests in some of the group's properties, including the Brent Cross shopping centre. The remainder is earmarked for extending Hammerson's Bow Valley Square development in Calgary, Canada.

For the year to December the group's gross rental income was £50.8m, up a quarter, and the Mitre House and Brent Cross deals should be worth an additional £3m in revenue. Pre-tax profits last year were up by almost a half at just over £15m.

The market shuddered slightly on yesterday's rights news, and with the ordinary and "A" closing at

600p and 585p respectively, the group is capitalised at £282m.

Estimated net asset value per share pre-issue is put at about 800p. Following this issue, this is likely to be diluted to about 725p, though some brokers are forecasting a net asset value of 760p from the resulting marriage values.

Mr. Mason is at long last complying with the new accounting standard for property investment companies and is underlining the internal revaluation of the group portfolio this year with a promise that an independent valuation will be conducted within the next five years. This may finally end the estimates of the company's true worth which have been floating around the market for years.

Bowater
Asset backing

Bowater has bettered market forecasts of £100m pre-tax profits for 1981, turning in £106.7m. The group's share price also bucked the market's downward trend, rising to 239p despite the failure to increase the year's dividend from 16.42p gross. But behind the apparent gloss, the figures are not wildly encouraging and seem to point towards barely improved profitability in the present year.

A prior factor in the profits increase — up from £85m in last year — is the favourable sterling/dollar exchange rate.

North American paper and pulp continues to contribute the major part of the group's profits for the share. Bowater expects it to go on doing so for the foreseeable future, but two major problems are looming.

The slow-down of the United States economy and renegotiation of Canadian labour contracts in the present year — traditionally a tough proposition — have acted as antidotes to enthusiasm about Bowater's 1982 prospects.

Newsprint operations — which account for between 35 and 40 per cent of group trading profits — are said to be holding up well, with the main problem one of overcapacity rather than poor demand. Newsprint stocks are however understood to be around double their normal level. The pulp operations are near the bottom of the cycle, and the hope is that demand should be improved by the end of the year, depending on the strength of an economic recovery.

As for the United Kingdom operations, 1982 may be slightly less discouraging. Last year the profitability of British and European sector fell by 16m, but 1981's rationalization exercise should reduce costs.

About £7m went on cutting back the size of the workforce, and Heavy loss maker were also disposed of. But trading is still bumping along the bottom with no sign of sustained recovery.

A yield of 6.9 per cent is hardly exciting without speculative takeover support. Current cost shareholders' funds of £819m make Bowater a large lump to swallow — but then the current market value of the group is a rather more modest £375m.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82 High/Low	Company	Price Chg	Vol	% Chg	P/E Ratio
120-100	Asa Brit Ind CULS	128	-2	10.0	7.8
75-72	Airsprung Group	73	-1	4.7	6.4
51-33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8
205-187	Bardon Hill	199	-2	9.7	4.9
107-100	CCL 11 1/2 Conv Pref	106	-1	15.7	14.8
104-61	Deborah Services	61	-1	6.0	9.8
131-97	Frank Horsell	125	-	6.4	5.1
83-39	Frederick Parker	76	-	6.4	8.4
78-46	George Blair	56	-1	7.3	7.6
102-93	Ind Corp Castings	108	-1	15.7	14.5
109-100	Isis Con Prof	96	-1	7.0	7.3
113-94	Jackson Group	115	-	8.7	7.6
130-102	James Burroughs	115	-	31.3	12.9
334-242	Robert Jenkins	63	-1	5.3	8.4
64-51	Scruttons "A"	63	-1	5.3	8.4
222-159	Torday & Carlisle	159	-	10.7	6.7
15-10	Twinstock Ord	13	-	15.0	18.8
89-66	Twinstock 15% ULS	80	-	3.0	12.0
44-25	Unilever Holdings	25	-	6.4	8.1
103-73	Walter Alexander	79	-1	6.4	8.1
263-212	W. S. Yeates	229ad	-	14.5	6.3

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Stock Exchange Prices

Sharp falls in gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 29. Dealings End, April 16. Contango Day, April 19. Settlement Day, April 26.
 † Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company				1981/82 High Low Company			
Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
SHIPPING																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
MINES																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
FINANCIAL TRUSTS																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
INSURANCE																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
RUBBER																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
MISCELLANEOUS																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
RECENT ISSUES																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
RIGHTS ISSUES																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00
Gold																			
100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00	100	0.00	10.00	10.00

Why Indians will test England

By Richard Streeton

No country's cricketers have tended to do less justice to their ability in English conditions over the years than those from India. Noting the quick eye and wrists of one touring side, and influenced no doubt by his association with Ranji, C. B. Fry once said Indians were the most natural cricketers in the world. The facts have not always confirmed Fry's view, and he was speaking, of course, before the emergence of West Indies as a power in the game.

Given, though, a fair deal from English weather and grounds-men, the Indians touring here in the first half of the summer under Gavaskar should prove capable of extending England fully. The 16 chosen make up a talented and mature team who will bring of confidence after outplaying England during the winter. For all its dull pattern it was still possible during the series for the dispassionate onlooker to recognize that India were the better side, certainly in their own country.

Several factors should help India fulfil their potential in England, even if their batting looks better equipped for the job than their bowling. Practically the entire team have experienced English pitches before, either with visiting Test or schoolboy sides or in the leagues. They have virtually no tall and helmeted bowlers to terrify them, and the recent upsurge, the effect that the absence of Hendrick, Old, Lever and Lee Taylor might have on England's new-ball attack, this year has escaped comment.

Gavaskar's own skill remains the lynchpin of India's batting. After a lean phase by standards he rediscovered his concentration appetite for runs in the 1979 party. Gavaskar, tall, angular, and probably Gavaskar's long-term heir as captain, finally found the confidence to go for his strokes on the big occasion in recent months. He played a crucial innings during the one-day series that India unexpectedly won in January and retained his new approach in the later Tests. Yashpal Sharma remains a hard man to remove in a crisis.

Of those coming who are less familiar to English crowds, Sandeep Patil could become the biggest favourite. Patil, an aggressive driver, hammered Lillee, Hogg and Pascoe for 174 in the second Test at Adelaide in 1980-81, three weeks after being felled by a bumper from Pascoe. He was a little unfortunate to lose his Test place against England as the series progressed but played a crucial part with bat and ball when India clinched the third and decisive limited-over Test. Patil, in form in the sort of batsman who can turn a match in an hour.

The other uncapped players chosen are Suresh Nayak, an all-rounder, and Randhir Singh, a medium pace bowler. Nayak, slight and wiry, bats left and bowls right-arm medium and is the sort of utility player every touring team ideally has. He performed well more than once against England, not least when he earned his place in India's one-day team. Randhir Singh, tall and slim, failed to live up to hopes expressed before England arrived as India's new bowling prospect. At his best, though, he can move the ball briskly either way and might do well on English pitches.

The lack of a full-blooded, out-and-out fast bowler to share the new ball with Kapil Dev remains the main weakness of Gavaskar's side. Kapil finished the winter

against England and now has his sights set on the record Boycott took from Sobers at Christmas as the heaviest scorer in Test history.

"Enjoy it, Geoff, while you can," Gavaskar told the Yorkshireman in a speech at a Delhi banquet. Gavaskar is some 1,400 runs short at the moment and no test would bring greater joy to the hearts of the Indian nation than for one of their countrymen to hold this particular record. Gavaskar will surely get there in the next two years.

Gavaskar has also become as shrewd a tactician as India have ever had as a leader. At the same time he has instilled in his players a belief in their own qualities that has sometimes been absent from Indian sides in England.

Gavaskar and Viswanath, who remains the most graceful of present-day Indian batsmen, will be making their fourth major tour of England, and Gavaskar and Yashpal Sharma survive from the 1979 party. Vengalakar, tall, angular, and probably Gavaskar's long-term heir as captain, finally found the confidence to go for his strokes on the big occasion in recent months. He played a crucial innings during the one-day series that India unexpectedly won in January and retained his new approach in the later Tests. Yashpal Sharma remains a hard man to remove in a crisis.

Of those coming who are less familiar to English crowds, Sandeep Patil could become the biggest favourite. Patil, an aggressive driver, hammered Lillee, Hogg and Pascoe for 174 in the second Test at Adelaide in 1980-81, three weeks after being felled by a bumper from Pascoe. He was a little unfortunate to lose his Test place against England as the series progressed but played a crucial part with bat and ball when India clinched the third and decisive limited-over Test. Patil, in form in the sort of batsman who can turn a match in an hour.

The other uncapped players chosen are Suresh Nayak, an all-rounder, and Randhir Singh, a medium pace bowler. Nayak, slight and wiry, bats left and bowls right-arm medium and is the sort of utility player every touring team ideally has. He performed well more than once against England, not least when he earned his place in India's one-day team. Randhir Singh, tall and slim, failed to live up to hopes expressed before England arrived as India's new bowling prospect. At his best, though, he can move the ball briskly either way and might do well on English pitches.

The lack of a full-blooded, out-and-out fast bowler to share the new ball with Kapil Dev remains the main weakness of Gavaskar's side. Kapil finished the winter



Kapil Dev, who should emphasize his improvement.

Paul's Test place went to Ashok Mahotra, a stocky but nimble right-hander, who makes strokes all round the wicket. He is 25 and has been in the first-class game nine years but has scored consistently only for the past two seasons. Scores of 80 and 67 not out for North Zone at Jamnagar against England earned him his place in the Indian side.

The other batsmen in the Indian touring party are Pranab Roy, who opened with Gavaskar in the last two Tests against England, and the uncapped Chandra Parth, Roy is the son of Chandra Parth, who five ducks in the 1952 series, including four against Iruema, have left him an unhappy and slightly distorted place in the record books.

Pranab is by far the soundest of the younger school of Indian opening batsmen and Gavaskar had a decisive say in his selection ahead of more freescoring rivals. Parth, a small stylish stroke-maker, failed against England in a zonal match but is another promising opening batsman in his early twenties. He was as good a cover point or deep fieldman as England met on their tour.

The lack of a full-blooded, out-and-out fast bowler to share the new ball with Kapil Dev remains the main weakness of Gavaskar's side. Kapil finished the winter

series looking stale and weary as a bowler, though his fiercely struck century in the sixth Test was a remarkable piece of cricket. Provided Kapil has regained his test, he and Mahotra, who was injured last year, will be under particular scrutiny. The man in form is Munford, whose long posting in England, who was injured last year, will be under particular scrutiny. The man in form is Munford, whose long posting in England, who was injured last year, will be under particular scrutiny.

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The lack of a full-blooded, out-and-out fast bowler to share the new ball with Kapil Dev remains the main weakness of Gavaskar's side. Kapil finished the winter

Hard roads ahead for Britain's pentathletes

By Michael Coleman

It will be all "away" matches for Britain's senior modern pentathletes this year in places like Rome, Germany, Paris, Budapest, Vienna and Uppsala. No overall sponsor has come forward, so a lot of travelling will be needed to find competition.

The one major home fixture is the world junior championships in London on August 24-28. This will be a complex exercise, which will call for a massive tightening of belts by all in the Modern Pentathlon Association. With up to 20 countries threatening to come, the already overstretched Crystal Palace sports centre will not be able to hide its defects.

For the rest, it will be a season spent living out of suitcases. Two groups have been formed: the Olympic squad (Michael Mumford, Philip Nightingale, Richard Phelps, Philip Royston and Stephen Sowerby) and a national squad (Peter Whithams, Tim Keady, Nigel Clark, Alan Burgham, Peter Taylor, Clive Matcham, Jason Lawrence and Robin May).

The toughest test for the Olympic squad will be on April 21-26 in Rome, the venue for the October world championships. Nightingale, who was injured last year, will be under particular scrutiny. The man in form is Mumford, whose long posting in England, who was injured last year, will be under particular scrutiny.

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Selectors look past Brew's losing habit

Robin Brew has survived a disastrous day of disqualification to gain selection to the British swimming team for the Moscow Olympic Games.

Brew, aged 19, an RAAF physical training corporal based at Coxford, has been included by selectors, who decided that the quality of his performances at the national short-course championships at Nuneaton on Sunday, December 13, was a sound basis for selection.

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Danger of sponsors vanishing

By Richard Streeton

A reminder that some sponsors might be frightened away if athletes were fully to operate in the open market of British sport is the 1982 financial side of the British Olympic Association's annual report.

"We are, though, slightly confused by the changing nature of amateur athletics," Mr Tony Craddock, British Olympic Association's vice-president, said. "It is the fifth successive year they have helped the sport and their contribution this season has been valued at £100,000."

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FISHING

Casting for trout on golden pond

By Conrad Voss Bark

Lord's, so that the case for competition in catching trout on the reservoirs may be worth interest, but "not" of the trout. It is also true that we are not catching with the catching of wild fish, so that conservation does not arise for the trout, are especially bred and stocked to be caught, and so far as the catching is concerned, those who enter these competitions are likely to be the most glibly in the reservoirs, by which to catch trout, the makers of cigarettes and beer and fishing tackle are hoping to increase their sales by exploiting a developing reservoir trout fishing market for two of the country's major reservoirs in Kenya and - bingo! - in avoid the major reservoirs on the applications.

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c. £6,400

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10-10-1947 10-10-1947

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$.

1. [REDACTED]

Age	Sex	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Body Mass Index (kg/m ²)	Waist Circumference (cm)	Waist-Hip Ratio	Trunk Fat (%)	Visceral Fat (cm)	Subcutaneous Fat (cm)	Visceral Fat Index (cm ³ /m ²)	Subcutaneous Fat Index (cm ³ /m ²)
20	M	170	65	22.0	85	0.85	15	1.5	2.5	1.5	2.5
25	F	160	55	21.5	75	0.80	12	1.2	2.2	1.2	2.2
30	M	175	70	22.5	90	0.88	18	1.8	2.8	1.8	2.8
35	F	165	60	21.0	80	0.78	10	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.0
40	M	180	80	24.0	100	0.95	25	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5
45	F	170	70	24.0	90	0.90	20	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0
50	M	185	90	26.0	110	1.00	30	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
55	F	175	80	25.0	100	0.95	25	2.5	3.5	2.5	3.5
60	M	190	100	27.0	120	1.05	35	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.5
65	F	180	90	25.0	110	1.00	30	3.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
70	M	195	110	28.0	130	1.10	40	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.0
75	F	185	100	27.0	120	1.05	35	3.5	4.5	3.5	4.5
80	M	200	120	30.0	140	1.15	45	4.5	5.5	4.5	5.5
85	F	190	110	29.0	130	1.10	40	4.0	5.0	4.0	5.0
90	M	205	130	31.0	150	1.20	50	5.0	6.0	5.0	6.0
95	F	195	120	30.0	140	1.15	45	4.5	5.5	4.5	5.5
100	M	210	140	32.0	160	1.25	55	5.5	6.5	5.5	6.5

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

DEATHS
NORMAN, Robert. Aged 65. Died on April 4, 1982, after a long illness. Buried at St. Paul's Church, London. Family address: 12, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

BIRTHS
On April 2nd, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

MARRIAGE
On April 4th, 1982, a wedding took place at St. Paul's Church, London. Between Mr. J. Smith and Mrs. J. Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 5th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 6th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 7th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 8th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 9th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 10th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 11th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 12th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 13th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 14th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 15th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 16th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 17th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 18th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 19th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 20th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 21st, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 22nd, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 23rd, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 24th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 25th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 26th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 27th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 28th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 29th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

DEATHS
On April 30th, 1982, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith. Name: James John Smith. Family address: 10, St. Paul's Church, London. Tel. 01-530 1234.

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SPRING
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SHORT LETS
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NEW FRONTIER TRAVEL
A new club for New Frontier Travel. Meetings on Saturdays at 11.00 a.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

WORLDWIDE
A new club for worldwide. Meetings on Sundays at 12.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

EASTER SKI BARGAINS
A new club for Easter ski bargains. Meetings on Mondays at 1.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

BARGAIN AIR FARES
A new club for bargain air fares. Meetings on Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

FLY TO GENEVA
A new club for fly to Geneva. Meetings on Wednesdays at 3.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

FALCON POUNDAGES
A new club for Falcon poundages. Meetings on Thursdays at 4.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

SAVING BARGAINS
A new club for saving bargains. Meetings on Fridays at 5.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

SKI VAL DIVISER
A new club for ski val diviser. Meetings on Saturdays at 6.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

BARCELONA ETS
A new club for Barcelona ETS. Meetings on Sundays at 7.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

CARIBBEAN 7 CANALS
A new club for Caribbean 7 canals. Meetings on Mondays at 8.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

EUROPEAN TRAVEL
A new club for European travel. Meetings on Tuesdays at 9.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

LEE MELLEURS
A new club for Lee Melleurs. Meetings on Wednesdays at 10.00 a.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

PERU
A new club for Peru. Meetings on Thursdays at 11.00 a.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

SKY BARGAINS
A new club for sky bargains. Meetings on Fridays at 12.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

GLORIOUS SPRING
A new club for glorious spring. Meetings on Saturdays at 1.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

ONLY THE VERY BEST
A new club for only the very best. Meetings on Sundays at 2.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

TRAVELERS
A new club for travelers. Meetings on Mondays at 3.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

BARBADOSE
A new club for Barbados. Meetings on Tuesdays at 4.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

GREEN
A new club for green. Meetings on Wednesdays at 5.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

KEY
A new club for key. Meetings on Thursdays at 6.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

WILL
A new club for will. Meetings on Fridays at 7.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

FRENCH DOCTOR
A new club for French doctor. Meetings on Saturdays at 8.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

CADILLAC
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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

TAKE OFF WITH AIRLINE
A new club for take off with airline. Meetings on Mondays at 7.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

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RENTALS

GEORGE KNIGHT & PARTNERS
A new club for George Knight & Partners. Meetings on Saturdays at 1.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

FLAT SHARE
A new club for flat share. Meetings on Sundays at 2.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

RENTALS
A new club for rentals. Meetings on Mondays at 3.00 p.m. Tel. 01-530 1234.

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RENTALS
A new club for rentals

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Water Masses 7.05
Evolution of Molluscs 7.30 Neurophysiology 7.55
Close-up 9.45 The Wombles narrated by
Bernard Cribbins (r) 9.50 Jackanory. Eleanor Bron
with the author of the book "The Wombles"
The Wombles (r) 10.05 Cartoons
The Banana Split (r) 10.35 Why Don't You...?
Ideas for children as an alternative to television (r)
11.00 Close-up 12.30 News After Noon with
Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional
news (London and SE only). Financial report
followed by news headlines with subtitles 1.00
Fiddle Me at One. Salman Rushdie talks about
his award-winning novel *Midnight's Children* which
is being launched in paperback today 1.45 Over
the Moon (r) 2.00 Golf: Men's Women's. Sally Little
plays Greg Norman (r) 2.15 The Painted Boats
(1980) starring Jerry Landry and Bill Blewett. The
story of two canal families 3.53 Regional news (not
London)

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown
earlier on BBC 2)

4.20 Cartoons: Scooby Doo Where Are You? (r).
Take Hart. Tony Hart designs an heraldic
shield.

5.00 John Craven's Newsworld.

5.05 A Little Silver Trumpet. Episode two and
Mrs Jessop is heartbroken after having the
precious tin box containing Jim Ashburn's
savings stolen.

5.40 News with Michael Sullivan

6.00 South East at Six.

6.25 Newsline.

6.45 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Four funnies:
Tom and Jerry in Jerry and the Lion and
Sleepy Time Possum; Foghorn Leghorn in
Feather Bluster; and Bugs Bunny in Hare-
Aban Nights.

7.15 Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973)
starring Ted Neeley, Carl Anderson and
Yvonne Elliman. The screen version of the
tema. A group of young people travel to
the Holy Land and act out the events that
led to the Crucifixion. The director is
Norman Jewison.

7.40 The Master Game. A chess
match between Britain's Ray
Keene and Eric Lobron of West
Germany.

8.10 Chronicle: Mohenjo-daro. City
of the Dead.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.

9.25 Rough Justice. The first of a three-part
series concerning serious crimes and the
persons sent to prison for them. A new look
at the evidence begs the question "should
this man have been found guilty beyond all
doubt?" The first subject is Mervyn Russell
who was found guilty of stabbing a young
girl to death in 1977.

9.55 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter.
Highlights from one of tonight's European
Football competitions. It is the semi-final
stage and in the European Cup Aston Villa
face the Belgians Anderlecht while
Tottenham Hotspur, playing at home, meet
Barcelona in the Cup-Winners' Cup.

10.50 A Question of Guilt. Episode three in the
reconstruction of the story about Constance
Kent whose young step-brother was brutally
murdered (r).

11.45 News headlines and weather.

12.00 M*A*S*H. The last in the
present series sees the
indomitable Hawkeye taking
on the US Army — with
predictable results.

9.25 Nancy Astor. The final episode.
A blitz devastates Plymouth
and Nancy and Waldorf set
out to find the missing
children. Nancy struggles to
save her adopted child
Mearns while Waldorf tries
to persuade Nancy not to stand
for re-election and she feels
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10.15 Hadyn Festival. The Academy
of Ancient Music play
Symphony No 44, in E minor.
Newsnight.

10.45 Newsnight.

11.30 Vigil. A preparation for Easter.
Ends at 11.50.

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